

Emmanuel Baptist Church Family,

We are all missing our times together for fellowship, Bible study, and worship. We miss hearing how God is working in each other's everyday lives. While we cannot currently meet, we can share with each other in another way, one that resembles what the early church did. In 1 Corinthians 14:26 we get a peek into the worship gatherings of the early churches. It appears that people came ready to share with the group.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NIV) When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation... All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

I propose an all-church online meeting this coming Thursday night, April 2, at 7 p.m. This last Sunday, two groups in our church “met” with each other online for Bible Study, the Youth classes and the Adult 1 Class. We benefited from our time together.

It is fairly easy to join the meeting and you can do so in one of two ways.

1. You can phone yourself into the meeting. I will send you a phone number (long distance) for you to call. At the prompt enter a nine digit number, which I also will give you, followed by the # key on your phone. That's it. At the second prompt hit the # again. You will join the meeting.

- You will be able to hear what is being said by the speaker. You will also be able to let the host (me) know that you want to share. I will explain how to do so in the next email.
- You will not be able to see the speaker.

2. You can join the meeting on your smart phone, tablet, or computer. I will send a link for the meeting. You may have to load an APP on your cell or tablet. You may have to download a bit of software on your computer. You will be prompted on the screen.

- You will be able to hear the person speaking.
- You will be able to see the person speaking, if they are using a device with a camera.

NOTE: You do not HAVE to share something to join the meeting. But if you have something to share, you will be welcome to do so.

What might you share? One of the following:

Tell us about your experience with the current crisis: frustrations, problems, needs, etc.

Tell us how God has ministered to you through a scripture passage, a prayer, a hymn or song.

Tell how another person has encouraged you.

Tell how you have been able to help a neighbor or friend in the crisis.

Share a funny story about your shopping trips or things you have seen in your neighborhood. For example, Margaret and I were out walking the other day and saw someone had put a reference for a Bible verse on a sign in their yard. It was from Philippians about praying when worried.

We would all benefit in hearing your familiar voice. We would be encouraged to share this hard time with you and be encouraged by your experience. It is the best we can do right now, and much better than doing nothing to connect with each other.

I will be holding a practice meeting on Wed. night at 7 just to help you figure out how to do get into the meeting and become familiar with what to expect in the meeting. I will send out an email tomorrow with the instructions for the practice meeting.

You will receive instructions by email on Thursday morning with the meeting #.

If you have any questions before then or want a practice meeting at a time other than Wed. evening, just let me know by email or phone.