

Wellspring Baptist Fellowship and the COVID 19 Pandemic

As the Elders of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship our responsibility is the spiritual and physical welfare of our church family and guests who choose to worship with us. Our commitment is to teach, lead *and protect* our Body to the best of our ability.

That said, what must be done to insure that our members and guests are safe when attending church services and functions at Wellspring?

This is a most daunting question to say the least, especially in the context of the viral pandemic that is sweeping across our land. Many would scoff and contend it is just panic or a made up crisis, justifying that few if any cases have been confirmed in Missouri. We pray they are correct and continue to be accurate in their assessment. Yet, opinions can't protect our people, only cautious wise planning can prevent unnecessary sickness and suffering among us.

I (John) have spent several hours in contact with the other Elders, Andy, Chuck, Dwain, and Jeff from our Administration Committee. I have talked to my two sons at length, both of whom are practicing physicians in Columbia, Mo. When I contacted my son Andrew I learned he had just left a briefing at the University of Missouri where he is a physician on staff and director of a surgical department. Andrew shared information that is being disseminated by the manager of the COVID 19 task force for the University as well as conversations he has had with the emergency room director and contagious disease specialists at MU.

I asked Andrew for his professional counsel at this time for events related to Churches. He advised as follows:

- Group dining and food preparation should be avoided without question.
- Group gatherings should be minimized when at all possible.
- Any person with cold or flu like symptoms should avoid gatherings.
- Touching, shaking hands, hugging etc. should be avoided.
- Hand washing and sanitizing should be practiced.
- Cleaning and the disinfecting of facilities must be a priority after gatherings.

Therefore, until further notice the only activities permitted at the Church building will be Sunday School and Worship on Sunday morning. Any person who feels uncomfortable attending services should only attend at their discretion.

The Elders must insist that the above guidelines be followed for the foreseeable future at Wellspring.

Please understand our desire is not to restrict, but to protect our Body. God is our provider and our strong tower yet we are commanded, "if any man (woman) seeks wisdom let him ask of God." Trust that we have and that we will always seek Him and His direction for the affairs of His Church at Wellspring.