

January 27, 2021

Greetings Wakefield Central Baptist Church Family. I pray you and your families are doing well and that you have had a blessed New Year!!

I would like to share with you some important information related to WCBC and our efforts to navigate through the pandemic.

First, we have not had any health-related issues (Covid or otherwise) resulting from our church facilities being open or our congregation meeting in person for worship and small groups. I am confident that the protocols we established prior to returning to in-person worship last summer and the relaunch of our Pre-Covid schedule on October 18, 2020 have been effective in providing a safe environment for everyone on our campus. We are grateful for all our volunteers who have faithfully served each Sunday in our worship services, nursery, and small groups. While many churches were not able to meet in-person, we were blessed with the opportunity to continue opening our doors on Sunday mornings.

Second, for most of the pandemic our church has seen only a very small number of church members deal with health issues. And out of this very small number, most of these issues were non-Covid related. Again, we are grateful for God's hand of protection upon our church and church members.

When the decision was made to relaunch our pre-Covid schedule, we did so with the understanding that the schedule could change at any time based upon the most relevant health information available. We have continued to monitor this information throughout the pandemic and have made decisions we felt were in the best interest of our church and church families. By God's grace we have been able to remain open.

At the beginning of 2021, the decision was made to **cautiously** continue with our current schedule and continue monitoring for any Covid related changes in our community. During the first few weeks of January, we noticed a continual rise in Covid cases in the Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon areas, and we began to see more members of our church impacted by Covid. This included an increase in the number of church members exposed to someone who tested positive, and a few members testing positive themselves. All these members quarantined themselves until they were properly cleared.

Over the past 2 weeks, the number of families within the church impacted by Covid have increased. These families followed proper medical protocols and have joined us for worship on-line while under quarantine. We are happy to see them recovering well.

The increase in the number of church members being impacted by Covid over the past 4 weeks, combined with the increased number of overall cases in the Eastern Wake County area led us to re-evaluate our Sunday morning schedule. I have spent several days this week praying about this situation and seeking guidance on what decision would be in the best interest of our entire congregation.

As a matter of precaution only, the decision has been made to suspend our in-person Worship Services and Small Groups for the month of February. We are asking our church family to worship with us on-line via Facebook Live at 10:00am during the month of February. If you remember, this was our worship schedule during the first few months of the pandemic last spring. We will follow our normal schedule this Sunday, January 31, 2021 and begin the on-line only services on Sunday, February 7, 2021.

Our hope is to return to our 8:30am and 11:00am Worship and 9:45am Small Group Schedule on Sunday, March 7, 2021. We also pray that we will see a decrease in Covid related numbers in our community during February, and that this month of on-line only worship will allow our congregation the opportunity to restore their health and be ready to join us again when possible. The Deacons will meet next week to discuss any additional changes that may impact our schedule beyond February.

We want to make sure everyone is fully informed, so please subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter to receive weekly announcements and updates on our church schedule. Visit our church website to subscribe and see additional information on our church: www.wakefieldcentralbaptist.org

Again, let me assure you that we have had no Covid related incidents due to our church being open or meeting in-person. This decision was made based upon the current situation within our community and congregation, and to take appropriate steps to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Thank you for your prayers and support during the past 10 months. It is a joy to serve as your Pastor. Your faithfulness to the Lord has allowed us to see God use our church in amazing ways during the pandemic and we pray this will continue as we journey together. Please feel free to contact me at the church office if you have any questions or concerns. May God bless you and keep you!!

In Christ,



Dr. Brandon Powell, Senior Pastor
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