



*“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

2 Chronicles 7:14

### **Presidential Epistle to the Constituents of the National Primitive Baptist Convention USA, Inc.**

*“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:3*

I write to you at a time of national concern to both calm your fears and to give direction for the people of God in a time like this. *“These are the times that try men's souls. Tyranny like hell is not easily conquered; yet, we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph”* (*The Crisis*, Thomas Payne, December 23, 1776). ‘Fear’ like ‘tyranny’ seeks to rule our minds and conquer our spirits. However, if we can only recall the words of the Apostle Paul in his second letter to his son Timothy, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV). We shall not be easily conquered; but we will have this consolation with us---“the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph”.

There is a storm out on the ocean and it’s moving this way. As we prepare for the impact of a global pandemic, I feel it necessary that I encourage each of you to focus on Him, who is in control, and to direct your request to Him who holds the future. My quote from 2 Chronicles 7:14 becomes first and foremost for the “People of the Way.” Proverbs 3:5 and 6 states *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* This gives us further instructions for the path of life. Moreover, our Savior admonishes us to *“Seek ye first the Kingdom.”* Therefore, let us petition the Lord for deliverance from the Coronavirus---a health crisis greater than any crisis which has touched the shores of America since the influenza epidemic of 1918.

As it relates to your worship schedules, consider the best interest of your congregation, follow the directions of our constituted health officials, governors, mayors and local medical authorities. It is my belief that “*these persons are not a terror to good works*” (Romans 13:3) but offer sound procedures for our well-being.

With this Epistle, we are sharing information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for your perusal. The flyer was modified to make it easier to share with our congregations. Please feel free to use it if you find the information helpful.

Additionally, we are aware of the tragedies caused by the tornadoes in Nashville a week ago. Your prayers are requested for the residents of those communities affected as they recover from their losses of lives and properties. We are requesting those of you who can continue to give to our Emergency Relief to do so, in order that we can make funds available as needed.

*The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

## New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church

Here are some of the basic measures listed on the CDC website:

### Take steps to protect yourself



**Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a **hand sanitizer that** contains at **least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

**Avoid** close contact with people who are sick.

Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



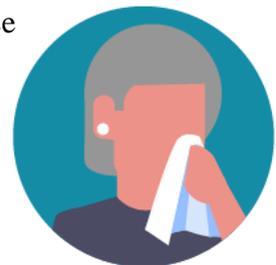
### Take steps to protect others



**Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care.

**Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash.

Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.





**If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

**If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

**Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

**To disinfect:**

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

**Options include:**

**Diluting your household bleach.**

To make a bleach solution, mix:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water, or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

**Alcohol solutions.**

Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.

Source: Center for Disease Control

