



Friday, July 31, 2020

Dear FPCP Friends and Family,

It seems that there is one constant in our world of late: change. But, more importantly, although the world may change, our God does not and His faithfulness endures forever.

As we reflect once again on changing plans, we've had to pause and reflect on whether, with the recent executive orders, it is wise to reopen our doors for live worship services in August. Churches are, of course, exempt from potential fines for gathering, yet churches also have a moral responsibility to care for the health and well-being of their members and visitors.

As of today, less than 40 people have signed up for Sunday's live worship service, which tells me that the vast majority of our membership is also being extremely cautious and is deeply concerned with everyone's health and safety.

With this small number of people spread around our sanctuary, which holds 300 people, we will go ahead and hold a live worship service this Sunday at 9:30 am. However, early next week, the COVID-19 Task Force will meet to re-evaluate the COVID-19 rates along with the interest of the congregation in order to determine if there will be a service the following week.

Rest assured, in terms of opening the church for this Sunday, every safety precaution is being taken including: temperature checks, health screenings, requiring masks, social distancing, and creating a one-way flow of traffic within the church. There is no communal singing and, sadly, no passing of the peace or coffee time. The service itself lasts only 35 minutes.

Our on-line worship services will also continue without interruption.

You may recall when I first announced our return to live worship services, I joked that this plan for reopening was the church's Plan A. At that time, I also said that the church may need a Plan B, C, and D. Right now, we are operating on a very limited Plan A. However, we trust that God will direct our steps to any new plan going forward.

For now, I thank you for your patience, support, and flexibility through this process. I hope that we can all find comfort in the knowledge that although everything around us changes, and although so much has changed within our church, the one thing that has not and will never change is God's great love for you. Rest in that love and find your peace and strength in it.

You remain in my heart and prayers,  
*Emily*