

July 22, 2020

Dear Church Family,

It's been good to be back in the office this week. Thanks for being patient with me and the church leadership for doing only online services these past two Sundays while I abided by the 14 day quarantine advised by our local county health department. Betty and I never had any symptoms and we both tested negative for the virus as well as everyone that was at our house on July 4th. Our daughter had mild symptoms and is doing well. Thank you all for your prayers and concern.

That all being said, the Consistory has decided to make a couple of adjustments to our in person worship starting up again this Sunday. First, we are having a 2-3 person worship team that will sing the hymns instead of the congregation. We will do this for the next couple of Sundays and re-evaluate at our August Consistory meeting. Also, we are strongly encouraging everyone to wear a mask when they are walking around the church on Sundays. You can take it off when you are seated. But when you are going to your seat or leaving the church, we ask that you wear a mask. We'll have masks available if you don't have one. We hope these two little tweaks will continue to allow us to have in person worship in a safe and healthy environment. Thanks for your understanding. Please contact any Consistory member or myself if you have any questions.

What we did when the church first re-opened worked well. Keeping our distance, hand sanitizer, doors being left opened, and masks being available to anyone that wanted them did what we intended them to do. We have hosted several funeral dinners in the Friendship Hall the past month without any incident. This is encouraging. I feel everyone has been respectful of each other and have abided by the guidelines set forth by the Consistory these past few months. It is appreciated. We continue to strive to have a meaningful worship experience while doing it safely for everyone that attends.

We will continue to provide live streaming of services and look forward to making that experience even better in the future with new equipment. Also the elevator will still be in use with the same guidelines as before when we reopened in June.

Like me, I'm sure you have felt discouraged and unsettled by everything. The words of the Apostle Paul from Romans 8:31 ring in my ears when I get feeling that way:

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

That is my encouragement to you. God is for us. No virus can defeat him or us since God is on our side. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person or online this Sunday.

Serving a powerful God together,

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