

August 26, 2020

Dear Members and Friends –

It is my hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer and find some safe but exciting ways to be together in the sunshine and the humidity – yet distanced – in activities and vacations and the lakes and whatever else you could find to do.

As we head into the fall and Rally Sunday (September 13<sup>th</sup>), I thought it was important for me to let you know what our discussions have been and how we will proceed with church services and activities that are held there.

The two councils met last week to discuss our options. Originally I had thought that perhaps we would try to be in the pews on Rally Sunday but with further discussion, evidence of increasing cases as colleges begin and the knowledge that our children will be heading into the schools (in some manner and time frame) we have decided the following:

- Church services will continue to be outside through the month of September.
- We will continue to have just one service at 9am each Sunday through September rotating locations each week
- There will be no Sunday school through September. Confirmation (students in 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade) will begin in October – virtual vs. in-person still to be decided
- Councils will meet jointly on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to assess the option of opening the doors to in-person, in-church services for October (Sunday school will be discussed then as well).

While we continue to patiently wait – I know I'm tired of waiting too – we will continue to stream the Sunday morning services each week. We have had an overwhelming response to our service streaming and have determined that this is something we wish to continue even when we are back in the pews. With that expectation there will be a need for some upgrade in equipment so we will also be looking at a possible fund raising effort this fall to get the equipment we need. More on that to come.

Please feel free to reach out to your council members, or myself, if you have questions on what has been decided for this upcoming month. Know that we are doing the best we can to get us back together in the safest manner at the safest time.

We will keep you posted and pray that you continue to join us each week – either in person with your lawn chair/drive up or on Facebook. Let's be intentional about Rally Sunday and raise it up to the start of our new church year of community in Christ. I would love to see us all coming back together – distanced of course – but together as we begin to find new and safe ways to be a church and a good neighbor to those that gather and those that are with us on-line and in spirit.

Hope to catch up with everyone soon. Blessings for those beginning school - whether student, teacher, staff, administrator, weight room attendant, custodian, ANYTHING school related – that they may given strength to begin another school year and peace in knowing that we all are doing what we can to be safe in this crazy and unprecedented time.

Blessings and Peace to you,

*Michele*

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