

Greetings,

I pray that you and your family are doing well and staying healthy. During these days one of the first questions people will ask me is “How is the Church doing?” The second question that I am usually asked is “Is everyone back yet?” Since I am being asked those questions regularly I thought I would answer them in a letter to you. I thought I would answer the second question first.

While not everyone has come back since the virus outbreak, we have welcomed back a large majority of the congregation. Some people are choosing to wear a mask and we encourage that if they feel led. We also encourage those who do not feel comfortable coming back yet to stay home but are praying that they will feel safe to come back soon, we miss you. We still have one of the middle sections taped off to use every other pew but the rest of the sanctuary is back to the normal set up before COVID. It has been great welcoming people back and look forward to the day when everyone is back in face to face worship.

In answering the first question, the Church is doing well. Sunday School classes have begun to meet again and each class is trying to practice social distancing as much as possible. The Hebrew Coffee spot is open again with one exception. Instead of each person filling their own cup we are asking people to grab an empty cup and pass it off to the host and hostess and allow them to fill it for you.

The Children’s Ministry and Youth Ministry have begun meeting also. Our Children’s Ministry is meeting during the Sunday School hour as usual but during the worship hour the pre-K—5th graders are meeting in the PD Station (youth area). They all begin with everyone in the sanctuary and then are dismissed after our time of singing. The children have a wet and wild day planned for August 2 from 4:00—6:00. Come prepared to get wet. The children will begin meeting on Wednesday evenings at the end of August. Further details will be coming.

The Youth Ministry is also meeting during the Sunday School hour in the snack shop area and then join with everyone else in the sanctuary during worship time. The youth will begin having regular youth meetings on Sunday evenings in August and those times and start date will be coming soon. The youth have been meeting for special events over the summer and have been enjoying those time together.

We are still directing people to enter the church through the front doors. It has been nice to see everyone enter through one door instead of multiple entrances.

For those of you who are watching the livestream through Facebook or the delayed taping on YouTube I hope you have noticed a big change from the first broadcast in March to the latest broadcast. This is due to a grant for the Lilly foundation available to all churches during the virus to upgrade their existing video system. Lilly offered this grant so that people could still stay connected to their church even if they could not meet together in person.

Through this grant we were able to update and purchase some new equipment to improve our video process greatly. A team of Mike Hunter, John Cole, Tim Habegger, Rich Garrett and Brent Garrett evaluated the capabilities that we did have and put together a wish list of equipment. Those pieces were ordered and bought with the grant money. While most of the pieces are in and operational there are still a few pieces that are still being shipped. Once those pieces are installed it will make the video even better. They have done an amazing job of putting it together and I have been amazed at the quality of the product that is now available online for many people to see. If you happen to see any on these guys let them know how much you appreciate the work that they have done. If you have friends that would like to know a little bit more about the church invite them to watch these videos and hopefully they will enjoy what they see. If you happen to miss a Sunday make sure you watch the services online so you don’t miss out. As a side note if you are interested in helping out with our technical ministry talk to Mike Hunter and he will help you get started.

While these times have been trying the Church is doing well and I believe that God is still in control. May you and your family be blessed and I look forward to seeing everyone back soon.

*Pastor Lyle*