

An update from the elders – 04.29.2020

First, we want to thank you all for your prayers as we continue to have to make difficult decisions.

After reviewing the guidance issued by the governor on Monday, the elders met Monday night. That guidance left us with very limited options as it continues to limit the size of public gatherings to no more than ten (10). Like you, we are anxious to resume some form of fellowship, but are not hopeful that this restriction will be lifted during the month of May.

We talked through several different possibilities, trying to see what would best honor God, while meeting the needs of our congregation and community. One theme kept coming up in our discussion - the church is not the building - the church is her people - you don't have to be present at the building for church to "count". From there, we arrived at this plan:

1. **Church building will remain closed** - We'll continue to keep the church building closed, except for staff and those involved in the livestream services.

2. **Livestream will continue** - Livestream services will continue and will continue even after we can meet together again. Did you notice that total views are exceeding our regular attendance before this all started? We have stumbled upon a new method of outreach with this work.

3. **Encouraging gatherings of 10 or fewer - the house church model** - In the book of Acts, we find that the early church met frequently in each other's homes for fellowship, prayer and communion. We sense that the fellowship aspect is what is most lacking from all of our lives right now. Following that model, we'd like to invite you to form house church groups of approximately ten to gather for fellowship, prayer, communion and to watch the Sunday morning livestream (hint - you don't have to gather at 9am on Sunday to accomplish this. The livestream is available for replay immediately after it is over and can be played at any time. So, schedule your gathering at whatever day/time works for the group.)

Who should I gather with?

- Your extended family, or
- Your friends and neighbors, or
- Your dgroup

Remember to observe the social distancing guidelines and don't gather if you are sick or part of an at-risk group.

We'd love to hear stories of these gatherings. Let us know the group you're meeting with. Looking for a group? Let us know by contacting the church office.

We assure you that we will keep monitoring the guidance and as quickly as it is expanded, we will revisit and update our plans and get those to you as soon as possible.

The elders – Jon, Scott, Lyle and Eric