

Dear Faith Family,

If you've been watching the news, you've probably realized this virus is here to stay (at least until we can get a vaccine). You've also realized Phase 4 is now further away than we originally anticipated. As you can imagine, this makes it extremely difficult for the consistory and I to make decisions about when we should re-open. And while it is currently legal for churches to have services that cater to 25% of its physical capacity (around 30 people for our sanctuary), this doesn't necessarily mean it's the safest thing to do, especially since singing is considered a very dangerous practice—even with masks—and many members of our congregation are considered vulnerable.

In light of this, I thank you for your grace and patience as we continue to navigate these ever-changing, tumultuous waters. Thank you for trusting us with these decisions, and for your continued prayer for our leadership as we figure out what is best to do. I also want to thank you for your continued financial support. While our giving has seen a slight drop, it hasn't been as steep as I expected given the fact that we are no longer able to collect tithes in person. For the most part we are able to pay our bills and continue to support our ministry partners. Thank you for being faithful in this!

With regards to our re-opening plans, for now the best thing I can tell you is, hang in there! Hebrews 12:1 says, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." *This* is the race marked out for us. It may not be an easy one. It may not be all that fun, either. But this is the course Jesus has set for us, and therefore this is the terrain we must navigate with faithfulness and integrity.

I wish I could tell you *when* this will all be over; I wish I could tell you *when* we'll finally be together in church again; but I can't. For now, I urge you to continue *being* the church: to persevere in the faith; to keep tuning in online; keep checking-in with one another; continue supporting one another and reaching your neighbors; keep praying; and keep trusting in the Lord. Finally, stay tuned for further news of our reopening plans, and if you wish to do so, please send us your thoughts and preferences for when we should re-open. It would be helpful to hear how everyone is feeling about this.

Remember, God is good all the time. And all the time God is good!

--Pastor Andrew