

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Dear church family,

I was so glad to see many of you at our Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday. I think even the introverts in our midst were exceedingly delighted to be able to talk and smile and laugh and sing together in the same place. I am reminded once again of the words from **Ps. 133**: *“See how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony! It is like fine, scented oil on the head, running down the beard—down Aaron’s beard—running over the collar of his robes. It is like dew on Mount Hermon, dew which comes down on Zion’s mountains. That is where the Lord promised the blessing of eternal life.”*

I am also aware that there is a lot of discouragement and frustration that we cannot just start having our services. Along those lines, my friend, Joel White (pastor of Crossridge Church), gives a very good explanation that I’d like to pass along:

If you have been questioning the why of your church leaders decisions as to going slow through this process of having in person gatherings in the building, this article is why. Many church leaders have been wanting to gather... they do but they also have sensed from the Lord the wisdom in going slow to see exactly what Covid is doing. 99 cases in a rural county linked to a church gathering. These are positive cases. (Click [here](#) to read the rest of his FB post and for the article that he references).

Again, I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding. I know I’ve been saying that for too many weeks now but I really do mean it: Thank you for extending grace to everyone throughout this pandemic quarantine. Know that as our Elders are meeting tonight, we should be able to share in the next few days our plan for a phased reopening. Also, our Elders are going to begin a dialogue on what or how we should respond to the issue of social justice that was violently brought to the forefront as a result of the death of George Floyd.

Finally, please note that we have opened our church building for outside group usage (click [here](#) for our guidelines). Please note that small groups within our church may use the building under the same guidelines.

COVID-19 INFO.:

- <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>
- <https://www.coronavirusnow.com/>
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?s_cid=+fb_covid_19
- https://www.facebook.com/coronavirus_info/?page_source=bookmark

FOOD/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPTIONS:

- [Willowbrook Food Pantry](#)
- Sherwood YMCA: [Sherwood Essential Needs Hub](#)
- Washington County: [Essential Needs Hub](#)



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CONNECT OPTIONS:

- **Connect with us online:** We are on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). We also update our [website](#) weekly with new information at www.sherwoodfriends.org. Connect with us online if you can.
- **Connect with us for prayer via Zoom:** Please join us at 9:30 am on Thursday. Click [here](#) for login.
- **Connect with your small group via Zoom:** It's important to stay connected to each other and not disengage completely during this time. Or, perhaps this is a time to start a new group. Let me (Pastor Rich) know that you'd like to set up a Zoom meeting and I can give you the log-in credentials for our Zoom Pro account.
- **Connect with us through the phone:** Our office administrator, Priscilla, is still hard at work during her normal business hours (M-F, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm). When you call and leave a message, she will receive your message and respond within 24-hours. (NOTE: We still have lots of masks to give out. Please give Priscilla a call and she will place your masks in a baggie to be picked up from the church office.)

Peace & Grace,

Rich Miller, Senior Pastor



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