

June 23, 2020

Weekly Update

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have to admit I am getting tired of writing these weekly updates, and I suspect y'all are equally tired of reading them. Please join me in thanking Russell Ellis, our Facilities Director, for his faithful service to our church and school over these last 8 years. This is Russell's final week, and we will certainly keep he and his family in our prayers as they move to Central Texas. Please introduce yourself to Shane Smith who has stepped right in to fill Russell's big boots. We are grateful to have Shane on board as our new Facilities Director. Please welcome Shane Smith.

We now have two weeks of in-person worship experience, and are confident that our preparations, planning, and protocols are working very well. Our attendance is understandably down. Our first Sunday back we had approximately 50 at 8:00 (better than expected), 50 at 10:30 (fewer than expected), and 25 at 5:30. Last Sunday we had half as many at each service. Not sure what accounts for that; could be a number of things. Clearly people are making their own decisions based on their own circumstances. Hopefully folks are out enjoying the summer.

I want to thank the staff and Phase 2 Committee for overseeing our plan and executing our protocols. They have done a wonderful job of moving people safely in and out of our sanctuary. We are watching our local numbers closely and are aware they are moving in the wrong direction. However, given the amount of space in our church, and the low number of people who have attended thus far, along with our strict protocols, we are confident, and planning to hold services this Sunday. We will let you know if anything changes.

If you have an underlying health condition, please consult your doctor before returning to public gatherings. We will continue to offer online worship recorded from one of our Sunday services each Sunday. However, the recorded Sunday service will not be posted online until later in the day on Sunday. We hope to have a live stream feed for our service in a couple weeks.

For those who missed their Confirmation this year, we have good news! Bishop Reed will be with us Sunday, August 30, for Confirmation at the 10:30 service. Of course, like everything else these days, this is tentative, depending on the state of the health crisis. Your confirmation teachers will be in touch with you regarding the details.

We look forward to seeing all of you back in Church when you are able. We miss you so much and are looking forward to seeing you soon. Bring your mask with you, seating begins 30 minutes prior to the service. Please know that we have a safe plan in place and the sanctuary is disinfected and sanitized after every service.

Keep the faith. "Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good! Render to no one evil for evil. Support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all persons; love and serve the Lord," and may the peace of Christ rule in your hearts always.

Yours in Christ,
Milton+