

## A Letter to Our Church Family from Your Shepherds

“Our Church Family” ... we often use those words to describe the Body of Christ that meets at Saturn Road. Perhaps never before in our history have we felt both the privilege and the responsibility that comes in leading this family through the COVID-19 crisis. The shepherds met on your behalf this past Wednesday evening to pray, seek guidance, and share wisdom concerning how to lead this family in the weeks and months ahead. You would be encouraged as you listened to each of the shepherds express their concern and desire to provide for both your spiritual and physical health and well-being!

This time in prayer and sharing led to a decision to begin having worship assemblies again at the Saturn Road building on Sunday, June 7. During these next few weeks, we will continue to monitor trends and government guidelines, knowing that if things deteriorate, we might again choose to remain closed.

We are blessed to have Dr. Clothier, Dr. Winkler, Dr. Stewart, and Dr. Marshall in our shepherding group. Their Godly wisdom, combined with their medical training, are of real value to us as we move forward. Based on their input as well as the wisdom from the entire shepherding group, our worship assemblies will be modified in ways that maintain a high degree of caution and social distancing.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sending you several communication pieces with information about our return to the building. As you consider those details, please be mindful of the following:

- Rather than one large assembly, several smaller assemblies will be offered at various times throughout the day on Sundays. We will begin sharing those times with you soon as well as how you can access a particular service time.
- At least for the near future, masks will be required for all members who attend.
- Social Distancing will be strictly enforced as you enter, as you are seated during the assembly, and as you exit the assembly.
- Our communion service is of chief importance to our fellowship. Serving it in a safer manner will require some adjustments in how you receive and partake of the elements.
- All of these guidelines will be strictly enforced with no exceptions.

We have confidence that you will be patient and understanding as we move into these modified services. But we are also aware some may decide to stay home, feeling comfortable; and some may decide they should not join in these assemblies because of health concerns or simply out of their own sense of caution. Your shepherds fully understand and even encourage you in those decisions. Several of the shepherds have made those determinations for themselves and will not immediately join in our assemblies. Our online service options will remain in place for those who choose not to attend in person.

Thank you for the love and support you give to us as shepherds of this church family. During these challenging days, your encouragement has been a bright spot in our lives.

