

With a heavy heart, I write this letter to inform you that we have had multiple positive cases of COVID-19 in our church building this week, including one church member, and at least one staff member. Due to how much contact there has been with other staff members, we are making the following changes to our services, programs and office schedule for the next few weeks.

- We will have one online worship service at 10:30am on Sundays 9/20 and 9/27.
- The office will be closed as of today, through Tuesday, September 29th, two weeks after the initial contact was made among multiple staff members.
- KidZone remains open, but affected staff are getting tested, and quarantining until they are told they are negative. Since KidZone staff are essential workers, if these staff members test negative, they will return to work. If they are positive, they will continue in their quarantine for two weeks after the day they had contact.
- The remaining church staff will work in quarantine until Tuesday, 9/29, whether they are positive or not.
- Church activities that have been meeting in the main building of our church will go online or take two weeks off, through Tuesday, 9/29.
- Bible at Breakfast will take two weeks off, 9/22 and 9/29.
- Children's and youth programs that were scheduled to begin the week of Sunday, 9/27, will begin one week later. Pastor Rebecca will be in contact with families to coordinate schedules.
- We will continue with regular online offerings, the daily Scripture reflection at 11:30am (Monday through Thursday) and Thursday evening worship songs with Gabriel and Mary at 6pm.
- Pastor Sara's study on 1 Corinthians will still begin on Monday, 9/28, as previously described. Check our print newsletter (arriving this weekend), website, or church Facebook page for more info.

None of us imagined that we'd still be dealing with this virus in September. In these times where strong opinions seem to be more common than grace and understanding, please remember that in Christ Jesus we are unified. Jesus said the world will know us by our love, as he prayed for us to be in unity.

I miss seeing you in person. I miss being able to join hands in prayers, shake hands or give a hug on a Sunday morning, or look you in the eyes when worshipping God together. Your encouragement, and passion for serving others in creative ways is what sustains me during this time. Let us continue partnering in ministry during these uncertain times.

I'm reminded of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:8,9 "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." I pray that you know this hope during this time.

Blessings,
Austin D. Hill
Lead Pastor