

As shepherds, we continue to pray for you, seeking God's wisdom in how to best provide for your spiritual well-being as well as your physical health. With both of those issues on our hearts, we offer the following details of how we will begin to offer a modified worship assembly in our building on Sunday, June 7.

First, we want you to know that we are aware that feelings concerning the re-opening of our assemblies and thoughts in general about the COVID 19 pandemic vary greatly. Many of you have strong convictions on this subject. Our prayer is that we follow the teaching of Paul in Romans 14, and not judge any of our members as stronger or weaker based on these convictions. Saturn Road is known as a community of believers that embraces a wide diversity of convictions on many issues, and we fully expect this to be the case concerning your response to the pandemic. Each member should be in prayer as to their response.

Second, as part of embracing these diverse thoughts, we know that many will opt to not return to our building for services at this time. We accept this and even encourage these convictions. Those of you who are in the more "at-risk" population, either because of age or some underlying health issue, should not return at this time. Many of the shepherds have made this choice.

Third, if you choose to return, we want to be clear in describing these modified assemblies. Based on government guidelines and the collective wisdom of the elders, the following protocols will be enforced during our worship assemblies until further notice:

- The wearing of a face mask will be required of all participants including children. Masks must be worn even during the song service.
- Social distancing will be required for:
 - Entering and exiting the Building
 - Seating selection and spacing in the auditorium.
- Hugs and handshakes will not be allowed.
- Children will need to be watched as they too should follow these guidelines.
- Access to restrooms will be limited.
- No nursery or childcare will be available.
- Communion will be served in a manner that allows for better safety and distancing.

Understanding that these protective measures will be in place during our assemblies, we offer the following options:

1. Each of our services will be limited to no more than 250 people.
2. We will offer an 8:00 a.m. service and a 10:15 a.m. service.
3. You will need to select one of these service times by using the online reservation system in REALM or by clicking the registration link on the church website, www.saturnroad.org.
4. Once a service is full, it will be closed for further reservations. If both services are full, we will consider offering a third service.
- 5. The reservation system will be available for you to make your selection beginning this Thursday, May 28.**
6. In order to facilitate our planning, you must use this reservation system if you want to attend. No walk-ups allowed... no exceptions.

While not our intention, there seems to be no way to clearly state these instructions without it appearing to be negative and perhaps even overwhelming. Please know that we love and appreciate you and the entire Saturn Road family. You continue to encourage us in the ways you are staying connected to each other, the ways you contribute financially, and in the way you serve so many during these crazy days. A phrase found often in scripture, but not given the respect it deserves is, "And it came to pass." These words often describe how God delivered His people after a time of waiting. We believe He will do that for us as well.

With much love and care!

Your shepherds

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.

