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*Director of  
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**Eric Randall**  
*College Pastor*

May 6, 2020

Dear Friend,

What a time we are living in. This Sunday will mark our ninth week without a public worship service. Let that sink in. Nine weeks away. The decision to close on March 15th was one of the hardest for me. The decision to re-open is even harder. Until I turn it over to the Lord. I am writing to let you all know first that we will have public worship on May 17th at 9:00am and 11:00am.

I am thankful for our Governor's willingness to give churches more freedom than businesses. If you heard or read his remarks, he spoke in "guidelines" and not "directives" or "mandates. Even so, we want to be wise and thoughtful, while also practicing hospitality and patience with one another.

Our survey was helpful. As of 11:30am on Wednesday, we have had 233 families to respond. As you might expect the responses were varied. 81 families said they would return on the 17th. 68 on the 31st. 84 on a later date. Those over 65 years of age were nearly half of the "Later Date" group. Those under 65, were 80 percent of the May 17th group. The survey showed an even distribution between the two service options they would attend. Those who said they would wear face masks were 59%.

We are still working through final details, but here are some general guidelines to let you know how we plan for your families:

- Exterior doors will open 15 minutes before the service.
- Worshippers will be asked to exit the building after the service so we can clean as needed between services.
- We will encourage families to sit together.
- We will restrict seating to every other row. For example, in the 9:00am service they will sit in rows 1,3,5, and so on. In the 11:00am service, they will sit in the even numbered rows.
- Face masks will be optional. We will have some masks on hand for those who would like one.

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- Sunday School, Nursery, Childcare, Choir and Orchestra will not meet.
- We will only use the Sanctuary building. With the north and south entrances.
- Exterior doors will be opened by greeters. There will be doors to enter and separate doors to exit on each side.
- Our response team will be on hand as always.
- We will post guidelines at entrances.
- No entry for those with a fever or symptoms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available.
- We will use receptacles for the offering.
- Bulletins will be emailed as currently. No handouts at service.
- We will continue with our online morning and evening service.

This will be a "soft" reopening, knowing that some will wait until a later date to return. But Lord willing, from May 17th until Jesus returns we will gather publicly at 4215 Prince Street on Sunday mornings. I know some of you will be more likely to stay at home until we have greater assurance of safety, etc. We will do our best to ensure that we are both safe and that worship is as "near normal" as we can. We do not want these guidelines to be a source of contention or division. We all have our opinions and perspectives. We will not be a policing agency. We will treat one another in a Christ-like manner.



Larry D. White  
Senior Pastor



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