

Greetings Redemption Hill Family –

***And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up.*** Galatians 6:9

These words loom ever more important as the pandemic moves into month number eleven. As we continue to navigate the reality of following Jesus and seeking to honor our government a question that keeps coming up is, “When will we be able to worship inside again?” The short answer is, “We believe soon.” Here is what you need to know as we move forward.

Our first priority remains faithfulness to Jesus in all things. All plans are periodically reevaluated and adjusted with this in mind. At present, we are able to meet in person for worship and for other ministry. While the constraints of the pandemic make this a bit cumbersome, we believe effective and genuine ministry is happening, so we are happy to submit to the government’s expectations for the sake of the testimony of Jesus and out of love for our neighbors.

Here is where things currently stand with the government and the pandemic:

- In December, the U. S. Supreme Court struck down a New York law restricting indoor worship and directed all states to review their own laws in light of this ruling. Since then, a federal judge has twice upheld Governor Newsom’s restrictions. This has been sent to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which has yet to rule (as of the time of writing), but a decision is imminent. If they remove the indoor meeting restriction (which seems likely) we will be free to meet in our worship center, following social distancing protocols.
- We are currently under a “stay at home order” because our hospitals are overtaxed and the effects of COVID are the highest they have been throughout the pandemic. We believe it is prudent for the health of our congregation and loving for the community at large to exercise extra care until the strain on our health care system has dropped enough for the stay at home order to be lifted.

In light of these two realities, here is what you can expect:

- If/when the Governor’s restrictions are overturned in court and the stay at home order is lifted, we will begin holding some worship services inside. We cannot yet set a firm date, but we expect this could be in a few weeks.
- When this is an option, we will open our 11:00 a.m. live-stream service for in-person attendance. Seating will be limited by social distancing, so we will offer a pre-registration system similar to last summer. Our 9:00 a.m. service will continue on the lawn where we can accommodate the most people at one time.

- We will communicate more details with you as soon as indoor services are a possibility. We anticipate offering on-line, indoor and outdoor services until the pandemic is sufficiently contained to remove social distancing requirements.

This has been a difficult and painful time. As we begin our eleventh month dealing with COVID we are all weary and long for better things. It may be awhile before we are free from this virus and all it has brought, but things are in motion that offer real hope. Thank you for your ongoing patience, flexibility and prayers for the ministry during this taxing season. The Gospel continues to be proclaimed, lives continue to be transformed and God continues to be worshipped in the midst of it all. God is using you to make this possible and for this we are deeply grateful.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please start a conversation with any of our overseers. We are blessed to journey with you.

For the Leadership Team,

Pastor Robert