Hello Redemption Hill—

***“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up… and called its name Ebenezer, for he said, ‘Till now the Lord has helped us.’”*** **1 Samuel 7:12**

For the first time in 103 days our staff gathered on the lawn this week. We reflected on these words. Despite physical distance we felt close to one another as we thought of God’s faithfulness through this season. Last Sunday we returned to live worship services—live-streamed for most of us. As we take careful steps toward being together in person on a more regular basis we believe God will continue to help us.

Prior to last Sunday we saw God’s faithfulness in:

* Fifteen recorded services that streamed on the internet
* Online Good Friday and Easter services
* Significant times of corporate prayer (and even fasting) involving more people than ever
* Online congregational meetings
* Online outreach training and an amazing Women’s Retreat
* Online bible studies, Life Groups & ABC’s, men’s and women’s groups, children’s and youth groups and many thousands of hours connecting via Zoom or telephone to encourage, pray for, challenge and love one another
* Drive by Mother’s Day photos and Father’s Day root beer floats
* Drive by encouragements, CD, flower and yard sign deliveries
* Financial gifts, personal “shoppers” and physical help for those in need

The church has always been people, not buildings. This season has shown that hard though it is, we can live as family in the most challenging circumstances. Till now God has helped us and we are confident he will keep doing so in the weeks and months ahead.

On Sunday we adopted a new budget, voted Ken Berding onto our overseer team and agreed to have “part two” of our annual meeting later in the year when we have more clarity about ministry structures moving forward. We realize that for most of us, in-person gatherings may still not be the wisest choice and are continuing online and telephone ministry to care for all of the Redemption Hill family. However, we are excited that more on-campus options have opened up for us.

We are carefully following government parameters for distancing, cleaning, masking and attendance. These help keep us safer, but make services extremely complicated. If you would like to join us on a Sunday morning here are some key things you should know:

* It is essential that you RSVP for everyone who will be attending with you
* If your plans change please let us know as soon as possible so that others can come
* We are not able to take requests for specific seats
* Worship Center seats can only be held until 10:05 a.m. when they will be released for someone else to use. (If you arrive late, and your seat is no longer available, we will do our very best to find you an appropriate seat in either McClintocks or the Hub where the service is live-streamed).
* Additional information you need can be found at [www.redemptionhc.com](http://www.redemptionhc.com) or by calling the church office at 562-947-4791.

We realize this is less than ideal. Please know that we will do our best to serve you and your family. Thank you for being flexible!

We believe this year’s budget is realistic and we are in a solid financial position—thank you for your generosity! We have certainly been challenged by this season of ministry but we are filled with hope and confidence in what God is doing—thank you for your faithful prayers and encouragements! Physical separation is difficult and can be lonely, yet some have found new levels of community and connection at RHC—thank you for the extra efforts at love and care!

Till now God has helped us—and he will certainly continue to do so moving forward. Thank you for being such a gracious family. If you have any questions or needs please reach out to any of our overseer team. We are blessed to serve with you!

Prayerfully, on behalf of the overseers,

Pastor Robert