

Dear Ambassador Family,

It is hard to believe that the COVID19 pandemic has now kept us isolated and apart from one another for two months. Being unable to gather as a congregation for worship and fellowship, not to mention the disruptions and restrictions it has brought to family, work, school, and almost all other areas of life continues to have wide-ranging impact. We recognize that there are both common and unique struggles that we are all facing as a result, yet none of those are outside the reach of God's amazing grace in Christ. God's grace is indeed sufficient in times of trial, and such times give us many opportunities to see God's power at work in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). As we walk through this hard season, we have a sovereign, almighty, gracious, faithful God in whom we have full confidence and a sure hope. Likewise, we have a great Savior who has born all our burdens and griefs, and in whom we find rest, hope and peace that cannot be shaken. The Lord goes before you, He is with you, He will not leave or forsake you. Thus we need not fear or be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8).

During this time the Session has been meeting weekly to pray for you, to assess circumstances as they relate to our church, and to adjust as needed to the current reality. We want to thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement and participation in online formats both for worship on the Lord's Day and other gatherings during the week. If you find yourself dealing with questions, fears, or concerns, or if you or someone you know are facing health concerns, dealing with job loss, have material or spiritual needs going unmet, or you just need prayer or encouragement, please let us know so we can offer support and help as possible.

With Governor Cooper's announcement about the state's plan for reopening, we are still unable to gather in groups greater than ten people through phase one. The elders have been discussing plans for when we are able to gather again, and we plan to have more details to you this coming week. We are considering various options and scenarios depending on the circumstances and what is permitted, and we are meeting with the deacons and staff to outline a return to worship together in a way that works best for our church and seeks the safety of our congregation.

This return to gathering in person again will be a gradual process that will require grace, diligence and cooperation from all. Each of us has opinions, concerns, and convictions for how things should go, and it will be important for us to consider the needs and mutual upbuilding of one another (Philippians 2:4; Romans 14:19). One thing we have decided is that even as we do start gathering again, we will continue to offer an online option for worship for those who are at risk or still are uncomfortable gathering in public at that time. We will keep you informed as plans unfold and decisions are made, and we appreciate your continued prayers and understanding.

In my 22 years of ministry, we've never been apart more than one Sunday for worship, usually due to weather. My prayer is that this lengthy time of separation has heightened our dependence on and trust in the Lord who is our strength. I pray it has also increased our desire and appreciation for the friendships, fellowship and love we share together as the body of Christ. Until we can meet again in person, let us continue to draw near to God in full assurance of faith, and let us not give up meeting together virtually, and making the most of every opportunity to encourage one another and build each other up in the faith, sharing the love of Christ with one another and all whom God gives us an opportunity.

On behalf of the Session and with love in Christ,

Pastor Warren

[Watch Video Message here.](#)