



From the Desk of Pastor Aaron Peternel

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Dear friends,

I write you today with great joy, knowing that God is preparing us even further for fruitful ministry in this season of political strife and pandemic mitigations.

Our Covid-19 response remains vigilant. Our goal is that each person who calls this church home, and every visitor, can perceive that the leadership of the church is both concerned for physical and overall wellness. As such we practice social distancing and promote mask usage when we worship or study together. As Pastor, I present that the Biblical philosophy behind these choices is as a family of God we exists to serve. Regardless of where you may find yourself on how this virus should effect our day to day life, we are charged by God to "Bear up one another burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." For this season we want to make it as easy as we can for everyone to attend. So far, and we have been open since June, we have not seen a single case of in-house transference of the virus.

We are also starting new ministry to advance us forward. Overcomer's Church is a new opportunity (right now 1x a month on Thursday night) for people who do not have the opportunity to worship on Sunday. It's a different way of doing church that focuses on very application Christianity which teaches us to overcome some of the more basic battles we face daily. We also wove relationship and community into the DNA. Expect to get to know those you worship with as a part of this experience.

There is a lot of conflict of the importance of church; whether or not it is essential. Know that our full plan is to worship every Sunday, carry out ministry most days of the week, and continue to celebrate the life of God and community of Christ together. As pastor, I have questioned the ideal that the church can flourish without gathering together. I simply pose to you why, for thousands of years, in the midst of greater persecution, people died for the opportunity some are so quickly rationalizing away. In many foreign countries the penalty for attending worship during covid lockdowns was severe. This did not stop many

from gathering. Ultimately each man and woman must make their own choice before God. Please use the full wealth of wisdom and knowledge of God's Word, the historic church response, and what medical professionals recommend as you act in the best interests of your family.

One day this will all be a distant memory. May none of us miss the lesson God would teach us as a part of this season. God help us that we would not have to face something like it again because we missed the lesson the first time.

Warm regards,

Pastor Aaron