

Good morning church family,

I'm sure you are all aware of the new regulations given by our local authorities concerning Covid-19. Because of those, we are in a place where we need to pivot, again, in what we are doing as a church body. We understand that there are a vast number of opinions out there on this topic and we do not make these decisions lightly. Pastor Joel mentioned on Sunday that the leaders would be meeting Monday evening to prayerfully decide how we are going to tackle these changes. As a leadership team, we put our heads together last night to seek wisdom from God in order to make a plan that will enable us to move forward with the mission of the church while keeping to the spirit of the laws given by our local governing officials.

This is the way we believe God is directing us to proceed through the end of this year:

We are going to try our best to limit our gatherings to the recommended number given, as we have already been doing. Unfortunately, that number has been changed from 50 to 25. However, we are still determined to make space for everyone who would like to attend an in-person gathering, so we are going to move to doing 4 in-person gatherings each weekend. One of those services will continue to be live-streamed for anyone who is uncomfortable with meeting at the church. Each service will be about an hour long. The style of those services will change slightly, but we will continue to sing, pray, listen to a message from God's Word, and take communion together. The 4 service times will be as follows:

Saturday Evening @ 6pm

Sunday Morning @ 9am and 10:30am (the 10:30 service will be live streamed like it is now)

Sunday Evening @ 6pm

We want to remind everyone that first and foremost all are welcome, and we will make space for everyone who wants to come. No one will ever be turned away. We have also been very upfront with our stance that masks/face coverings are encouraged but not required. This will remain true for all of our Sunday services (both the morning and the evening). However, we understand that some prefer masks to be worn. We respect and love you and we want to make it possible for you to come if you wish. Because of this, we are going to make masks/face coverings mandatory for the Saturday evening service. If you choose to attend that service, we lovingly ask that you wear a mask and strictly practice social distancing. We also want to remind everyone of the precautions and safety measures we continue to have in place. We have installed air scrubbers to purify the air and kill airborne germs. We thoroughly disinfect surfaces between all services and the chairs will continue to be spread out to allow for room between families. However, if you are still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings, then you are welcome to continue to live-stream the 10:30am service on Sunday mornings.

We DO NOT want to have to go back to the RSVP system we used last spring; instead we are asking that each person or family group choose a service and continue to attend that same service each week. This will help us keep each service consistent and balanced. Today, we ask

that you would think about the service time you would like to attend. Sometime over the next two days, you will receive a call from one of our leaders to answer any questions you may have. At that time you can let them know which service would work best for your family.

Along with the weekend services changing, we are going to bring all the mid-week groups to the church building as well. At least for the time-being. This will include Man Up, Women of the Word, and Youth Group activities.

We know this is a lot of change, but we believe it is a unique opportunity for the church to grow in some unique ways as we do church a little bit differently during this season. We believe it will look a little bit more like the early church described in the first chapters of the book of Acts. We are thankful that we still have a way to gather in order to encourage, challenge, and love each other well during a difficult time.

This is all beginning this weekend! Again, we ask that you please let us know which service will work best for your family over the next couple of days. As mentioned earlier, if you are a member or frequent attender you will receive a call by Wednesday evening from one of our leaders. If you do not get a call by then, please reach out to one of the leaders to let them know which service you would like to attend and to ask any questions you may have.

We love you church family and we are excited for what this season holds for us. Talk with you soon.

With love,

The River Hills Elders and Deacons