



THIS
IS
YOUR
YEAR

atlantic
coast church

January 6, 2021

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On Monday, March 16, 2020, we made the call to temporarily suspend our Sunday gatherings and other scheduled events. We thought that it would only be for a couple of weeks and moved ahead with our plans for Easter Sunday—at that time just a few weeks away.

We did not know at the time the extent of the pandemic or any of the events that would affect our meeting together again.

Some have said that our church closed. Nothing could be further from the truth. The church did leave our property and buildings. We have had gatherings held all over our area in homes. And we have learned that you do not have to be AT the church to BE the church. This is a biblical principle of which we are reminded over and over again in Scripture. That the church is not a building. The church is not a program. The church is not a location. The church is a people – even when they are separated. We did not make our decision based on fear. We made our decision based on a confidence in the God who got us here and knowing that He would get us through. Here is what your church has accomplished in the last ten months:

- We have had a wedding. We have had funerals. We have had a baby born.
- We have fed well over 1000 people throughout Community Meal Outreach as well as through donated groceries.
- We have helped pay people's medical bills.
- We have helped small businesses in our area through donations to laid off employees.
- We have helped young families in crisis through Grace House.
- We have been assisting local schools through our partnership with Identity Church.
- We have enabled families to be able to stay together through our partnership with Salty Family Services.
- We have helped individuals in need through our partnership with Gifts of Love and Halifax Urban Ministries.
- We have groups of people meeting together for prayer and a time of sharing on Sunday after our broadcast.
- We have begun a media ministry that has allowed us to pivot to a digital ministry that reaches hundreds of people each week in our own area, from 25 states, and at least 5 foreign countries.

We have also taken this time to renovate our three buildings. The first two of our classroom buildings were completed in a very timely manner. We have had to take a little longer with our auditorium. It is being totally renovated from the ceiling to the floor. It will have all new seating as well as an audio-visual media center that will be one of the best in the area. This building is about 90% complete.

So here is our plan for now. On Sunday, February 7, it is our intention to reopen for in-person gathering. Because of COVID recommendations, at this time, we will not be able to have the full house in both services that we have had in the past. So for the first four weeks we are going to limit our availability of seating. We will do this by separating our congregation into four groups. Each group will be invited to participate on one Sunday during the month of February. During February we will only have one gathering on Sunday morning. It is our intention to expand to two gatherings on Sunday mornings in March. We also want to offer some opportunities to participate in our gatherings at some off-site locations. Please be watching our social media in the weeks leading up to our re-opening as we announce details.

COVID has thrown us all for a loop. This is nothing that we could have planned for. We have been very careful in our decision making and we will continue to be. The church and Christianity is not about us. It always has been and always should be about how we care for

others. Over the next few weeks as we prepare to reopen, we will be letting you know of some procedures that we are going to follow that will help those who would like to have an in-person experience on Sunday mornings to do so in a safe manner.

I am excited as we look forward to our church family being together again. If you have any questions about what you have read today, please feel free to respond and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Jerry

THIS WEEK'S TEACHING



What 2020 Taught Us

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