

June 20, 2020

Church Is Not a Building

Obviously, the “period of separation” caused by the pandemic has caused us to focus and reflect differently on everything from shopping to celebrating. Not the least of which is the idea that we can still “go to church” when there are no organs or pews or hymnals. It is still church when there is no steeple, no altar, no stained-glass windows, even no building at all.

This time has taught us that we can worship without the traditional setting and trappings and, yes, comforts that we’ve become accustomed to. Over the past three months, we’ve all learned that we can still feel God’s presence no matter where we are. It might be from kitchen tables in a Zoom or Facebook meeting or from parked cars in parking lots or on beach chairs six feet apart on a sandy beach.

Worship has always been about much more than the building in which it occurs because a church is not a building but a body of believers. In fact, the word *church* literally means assembly, congregation or meeting.

Even before this pandemic forced groups to create innovative ways to worship, pastors everywhere had been delivering sermons from unusual, unorthodox locations: from docks with congregations anchored in lakes, in tents in the desert, in barns in the woods, on horseback trails, and even in bars and cafes.

Here on Edisto, Redeemer Fellowship first met in members’ living rooms, and for one brief period, *under the deck* of a member’s home. Eventually, they found a home at Jane Edwards Elementary School, and when that wasn’t an option, sermons became virtual from the Pastor’s back porch via Facebook.

What makes Redeemer different is not its lack of an identifying physical structure, but the church’s **decision not** to take the traditional path of creating a building. “This was a conscious decision to focus our resources and time not on the demands and expectations of a physical bricks and mortar structure but instead on the needs of the community and the creation of disciples to carry our missions forward,” explains Pastor Rob.

Obviously, we all long for the time when we can greet one another with hugs, celebrate with songs, and generally feel the community of believers around us and for the return of what we understand as normal “going to church.”

Until that time, our social distanced congregation of Redeemer Fellowship is worshipping Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Edisto Beach Civic Center, 42 Station Court. Come, join us in person or virtually on Facebook, Redeemer Fellowship Edisto Island or at www.redeemerfellowshipofedistoisland.org.