



May 19, 2020

Fellow disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon “home”,

Your church council met on Sunday, May 17th using Zoom conferencing. We discussed the parsonage and the usage by Pastor Greg Brown and his family. Many of the parsonage rooms were painted and the carpet was thoroughly cleaned. The heating and air unit was serviced, and we did not need to replace the unit immediately. We did purchase a new refrigerator since the 15-year-old refrigerator was no longer cooling. The family is moved-in, settled, and enjoying being our neighbors.

The second item was to discuss the re-opening of the church for in-person worship. We eagerly anticipate the day when we can worship in-person again, but we do not want to place anyone at an increased risk of becoming ill. We received many documents and outside recommendations regarding the process for re-opening. Some of those recommendations were:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet to be observed
- No interaction with others and no leaving worship once you were seated
- Everyone has their temperature taken upon entering the doors
- Everyone wears a mask
- Place hand washing stations at the entrance
- Clean the handrails continually
- Sanitize and germicide the campus after worship
- Limit the ways to enter and exit the sanctuary
- No sharing of the peace
- No passing of the offering plates / friendship pads

As your pastor, we could make some of those logistical items happen, but some specifics that were highly recommended were not items we were willing to comply with:

- No singing in worship because of the spread of germs is greater when singing.
- Limit Sunday worship to 30 minutes, to lessen the possibility of spreading germs in a closed space.

After a lengthy discussion, your council has agreed to continue as we are for the next 30 days. Our next meeting will be June 14th. As businesses begin to open over these next weeks and we begin to “leave our homes – with personal protection equipment,” we will begin to receive additional data about the spread of the Covid19 virus. This new data will better form a decision regarding in-person worship.

We will continue to LiveStream the worship services. We are continuing to look at improving this service and will continue to LiveStream even after we return to the sanctuary for worship. We are aware there are some who are without internet connection and electronic devices. We are working on options for phone and other means to connect these families.

If you should have any questions, please contact your council representative. You may also call me or Ronnie Fulmer, with questions.

I miss you seeing you; however, I want each of us to stay virus free!

Pastor Gina