

From the Board

The end of April means we have had a full calendar month of church life affected by COVID-19.

We are resolved to be church together, proclaiming Christ's love to all people through worship, study, fellowship and service.

Thank you to Pastor Brown for creating thoughtful and uplifting worship services and sharing them online, and for involving so many from our church family in the services. Thanks this week to Jan Amos, Brea Wheeldon, Kennedi Countryman, Cindy Bates, Cindy Gum and Joe Register for taking part!

Thanks to the associate pastor search and call team for continuing their work in preparing the church profile.

Thanks to the elders for seeking new ways to provide spiritual leadership in fulfillment of our worship and fellowship missions during these difficult times. They are looking to expand the caller pool in the calling tree fellowship and planning for new communion procedures when church reopens.

Thanks to the combined elders and board for their decision-making leadership. This team met by phone conference Monday evening, April 27 to make a decision about church closure and to plan for what church reopening looks like.

The leadership team looked at the calendar of pertinent decision-making events involving our local schools, the city of Camdenton, the Camden County Commission, the Camden County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Health, and the Governor's office. Governor Parson began a series of daily press briefings on Monday afternoon, April 27th, that details his plans for a phased recovery as the stay-at-home order expires at midnight, May 3rd. The Show Me Strong Recovery Program announcement included this statement:

“Yes, as long as the social distancing guidelines are followed, places of worship are allowed to hold in-person services. Common practices that may occur with worship services, such as handshaking and shared communion cups, should be avoided. Places of worship are also encouraged to continue use of alternative means of services through streaming services and other opportunities.”

We are studying Missouri and Camden County health data that comes out daily at 2 p.m. to see how our community is being affected. No new cases have been identified in Camden County in the last week. If that trend continues for two more weeks that will be very encouraging.

Our Disciples mid-America region leadership has been very helpful in outlining factors that need to be considered in deciding how to move towards reopening church and what worship should responsibly look like.

Our leadership team is having great conversations about being church together. We promise to be cautious and thoughtful about your safety as we phase back into regular church life.

The leadership team approved this decision unanimously:

Camdenton Community Christian Church will remain closed for all worship activities and community use through May 17.

A committee was formed to create a recommendation plan for the leadership team to consider at its next meeting on Thursday, May 14th. Pastor Brown, Cindy Gum, Nancy Johnston, Judy Wingate and Joe Weber volunteered to serve on this committee.

We are hopeful that greater clarity about trends for health conditions in our community will be apparent by our May 14th meeting date, as the state of Missouri phases in recovery strategies starting May 4th. Phase one runs through May 31st.

Please pray for our church, the thoughtful work of the committee and the leadership team, and our community as we look forward with optimism. **Please stay safe in the coming days!**