

17 June 2020

Dear Church Family:

Praise the Lord for His goodness and grace! We had another wonderful outdoor service again this past Sunday. I'm not sure the weather could have been any better, and it set the stage perfectly for a joyful time of corporate worship, a reflective time of communion, and a challenging time of looking into God's Word. I'm so glad to be back to worshipping with all of you in-person. 😊

I wanted to let you know that, as a result of discussions with our church staff and after our Joint Board meeting last night, we have decided to continue the outdoor services through the month of July. We weighed the pros and cons of this decision and thought it would be best to continue meeting outside for now. There are so many factors that go into making that decision. Thank you for understanding as we try to walk that fine line between building usage and the safety of those attending.

While we rejoice in the fantastic weather the Lord has given us for the past two Sundays, we're not naïve enough to believe that it will be that way every week! We know that weather is a big factor when it comes to outdoor services. So, here are a few important points of communication:

1. We will make a decision about whether or not to have the service by 8:00 AM on that Sunday morning. Should we decide to cancel the outdoor service, we will post that decision on our church website, www.gracebiblechapel.org, at 8:00 AM. Please note: we will move the service indoors (WITHOUT a congregation present), and the live stream of the service will still be available on the website at 9:30 AM. Simply click on the button on the homepage to watch the service live, as it happens.
2. As the weather gets hotter and the humidity increases, don't hesitate to bring canopies or umbrellas to sit under during the service. We would just ask that you set them up on the perimeter of the worship area so as not to obstruct the view of other worshipers.
3. Please continue to use the portable restrooms and the handwashing station in the parking lots. We are still considering our church building closed. There are no meetings or ministries happening inside the building yet. The Elders, Deacons, and Joint Board also continue to meet on-line. Again, this is in the best interest of all our people, whose health & safety is paramount to us.

May the Lord continue to bless us as we move forward in unity as a church body. Continue to pray for good weather on Sundays and, weather permitting, I'll see you then.

Joyfully in Jesus,

--Wayne

Men's and Women's Summer ABC: With our Sunday morning schedule currently altered due to Covid-19, our regularly scheduled Adult Bible Classes are being moved to Wednesday nights at 7 P.M. beginning June 24. Throughout the Summer, there will be a men's and women's group meeting on alternate Wednesday evenings. The women's group will meet every other week starting June 24 at the church fire pit (other dates are July 8, July 22, August 5, and August 19). The men's group will meet every other week beginning on July 1 (other dates are July 15, July 29, August 12, and August 26). Each week will provide a great opportunity to connect with others and grow together in God's Word. Stay tuned for more details regarding location of meeting each week. If you have any questions, please reach out to our ABC coordinator, Brent Lawrence at blawlaw@netzero.net.

Believers Exchange: Beginning immediately, BE will be open on an appointment basis. Up to 4 people will be allowed in the space at any one time. You may request a solo appointment. Please call or text Cindy Kolan at 301-502-1593 to arrange your appointment. The area is overflowing with some very nice, gently used, summer clothing.

Save the Date - Family Fun Day – Since VBS had to be cancelled for this summer, we have decided to plan a Family Fun Day for Sunday, August 30th. There will be a family friendly morning service and then a picnic for anyone who would like to attend. After the picnic, families will be invited to attend “stations”, much like VBS, where they will be able to learn and grow and have fun together. Be sure to mark your calendar for AUGUST 30TH!

IMPACT - Tonight, June 17th is an Outdoor Game Night at church at 7:00pm. (We will cancel by 6:15pm if weather is bad). We will not be permitted in the building, but a port-o-potty will be available. We will not be wearing masks, but will do our best to social distance. If you're uncomfortable with meeting in person, we completely understand if you have to miss. Please note - if you or anyone else in your family has a fever or is feeling ill, please stay home out of courtesy and safety for others.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - Tonight the HSYM will be outside if the weather is permissible. We will be playing games so dress appropriately for the weather and the conditions. Attached is a summer schedule; some activities will be weather dependent and will depend on restrictions due to Covid -19.