

Where to from here? A statement by Pastor Bryan on the days ahead for PVBC.

Hello Everyone! What unusual and challenging days we have experienced over the past few weeks. I am grateful for our health and provision as God has been faithful to us. I hope this letter will give some clarity about how and when we will be gathering together in the near future. But first....

Where we've been

Since the restrictions were placed on our gatherings I am proud to announce that ministry has not stopped! I am thankful for our ability to utilize technology to a much greater extent during this period. Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, have viewed a variety of services since late March. Thank you Pastor Scott York and all of the sound/music/tech volunteers that made that happen. Also, the majority of our Sunday School classes have continued meeting via zoom or a comparable video/calling platform. Thank you teachers for adapting and ministering so well. Our Deacons have sacrificed tremendous time and energy to keep up with their high need families and individuals. They have truly been the front line for ministry needs and extending a personal touch. Our weekday preschool has continued teaching via zoom. God has blessed us financially as well. We have continued to meet the budget through your joyful giving. We welcomed Ms. Anna Worley as our new Minister to Children at the very beginning of the COVID crisis. Even though at a disadvantage, she has ministered to children and families in a variety of ways as she continues to lay a relational foundation with the membership and community. Dozens of meals have been prepared and delivered. Groceries have been purchased and dropped off. Toilet paper has been shared. Goodie bags have been gifted. Commitment to prayer has continued. You have done well! God has been honored through the ministry of His people.

Where we are going

With the current change in restrictions related to church gatherings I am pleased to announce that we will hold congregational worship service on **Sunday, May 31**. With our current facility space we feel comfortable that we can responsibly meet, with some adjustments. If you feel uncomfortable attending in person, please continue to worship with us online. Make your decision as God leads. You are loved and supported in whatever decision you make. In fact, if you are sick or have compromised health in any way, I ask that you continue staying home for now. I love you and want to see you remain healthy. In an effort to keep everyone healthy I want to share some changes you can expect during our worship gathering.

- Everyone is asked not to shake hands or hug
- Sunday School and evening gatherings are still suspended
- Everyone will be asked to leave every other pew empty and allow six feet of space between families
- We will not have bulletins, hymnbooks, bibles, or paperwork available in the pews
- We will not pass an offering plate. An offering box will be located in the entry
- Congregational singing will be limited
- There will be no children's ministry or nursery available. A cry room will be available at the back of the sanctuary if needed
- We will be dismissed by sections to eliminate crowding at the exit`

Some of these changes will be very temporary while others may stick around for quite some time. I know we all have a wide variety of opinions on what we should or shouldn't do. Let's do this together as we go forward and do great things for our God.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Bryan Blackwell