

Our country and state seem to be slowly moving in a positive direction. Pennsylvania is supposed to go to “Yellow” on June 5th. That’s great! We understand you’re ready to get on with life and believe everyone is ready for this to be over. ***We certainly are!***

However, we must be patient and very intentional as we prepare for re-opening. This will be a gradual process. We can’t go from zero to even sixty in a week or two! That being said, we have some principles that are guiding us in the reopening process:

- 1) Above all else, we want to honor God in every decision we make!
- 2) Our next priority is the spiritual health of our church – that’s you. That includes your physical, emotional and social well-being.
- 3) Church unity is obviously critical, and we recognize that there are many differing opinions about COVID-19 and when we should re-open. The Biblical principle is “in honor, preferring one another. (Romans 12:10)”
- 4) Our presence and place in the community are a big deal. We don’t want to do anything that would hurt our testimony, ministry or reputation.
- 5) Lastly, we want to obey God by honoring our state and national government officials and the guidelines they have established.

In preparation there are some necessary things we are doing:

- 1) **Praying.** There is nothing more important than asking the Lord for wisdom and direction as we seek to honor Him moving forward.
- 2) **Researching.** There are a lot of questions, many unknowns, and information seems to be in a continuous state of change. We are doing significant research and working hard to learn all that we can in order to make informed and Spirit-directed decisions moving forward.
- 3) **Receiving Input.** We will continue to seek your input as we did in the church wide survey. It matters to us that we know what you are thinking and how you are feeling.
- 4) **Establishing a Short-Term Task Force.** We’ve established a Reopening Task Force to work in conjunction with the CDC, national, and state guidelines and recommend a plan for re-opening. We also have a team that will be a resource for the Task Force. Here are the members of those teams:
 - Glenn Zumbach (chair)
 - Maija Niznick
 - Kelly Flowers
 - Tim Kopp
 - Pastor Paul Osborn
- 5) **Resource Team**
 - Reid Anderson
 - Jason Davies
 - Jim Flowers
 - Rich Lenahan

What can you do?

- 1) **Prepare for things to be different.** Our ministries will look different from what they were before the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be a “new normal” that we will need to get used to. We must be ready for change and be willing to sacrifice for others.
- 2) **Pray.** Be prayed up. Pray for wisdom, direction, and discernment for pastors, church staff, task force, resource team, and our Heritage family.
- 3) **Grow.** Stay close to God during this time. Position yourself to hear from God. Lean into what God wants to teach you and how He wants you to become more like Jesus!
- 4) **Remember people still need Jesus.** *Who’s your ONE?* Are you continuing to pray your ONE? Continue to invest and share the hope that we have with them.

We can’t wait to get back together again! We love you and we miss you! We miss being able to gather together. We know that God has lessons for all of us in this pandemic, let’s not miss them!!

-Pastor Glenn and Pastor Paul