

Calvary Update Week of March 1

A Letter to Calvary Church Family:

Dear Church Family,

We are writing today to let you know that at long last, after much prayer, deliberation and consultation, we will soon be re-opening our church to in person worship. For those who are at risk or not comfortable to do so yet, we will continue posting 9:30 AM sermon on website or sending it by email or regular mail to shut-ins.

BEGINNING SUNDAY MARCH 21st we will return to in-person services in both services. More details will be sent later.

We completely understand that some persons will be excited to attend the in-person services for worship, and others may choose to worship at home. Please know we are offering everyone a choice, and we respect the decisions that you make. Currently over 50% of our 9:30 AM regular attenders and most staff have received at least one covid vaccine shot. Several others have appointments through March.

For re-opening each church has been asked to develop a plan and submit it to their Conference Superintendent. We are working on ours to include plans for children and older adults in both services. Rev. Larry Whitehead, assistant to Bishop Trimble wrote the following last week: “After you have checked the infection rate and data for your county and community, all plans should start with a provision for the “3 Ws”:

- * WEAR masks . . . entering, exiting, and at all times in the building
- * WAIT . . . maintain social distancing in the pews and in the building
- * WASH hands regularly (and use hand sanitizer)

These provisions have contributed considerably to the improved conditions we are experiencing. This is not yet the time to relax.

With an eye on CDC guidance, your plan will need to include guidelines for how people enter and exit the building (to minimize large groups in one place), discourage the use of restrooms unless absolutely necessary, eliminate print bulletins, and assess how music will be used in worship to avoid congregational singing. We are encouraged to remember that this is a cautious return to in-person gatherings - not yet an all-clear return without guidelines. We are all called to be responsible in managing a difficult balance between moving forward and not moving too fast.” We will also continue to follow re-opening guidelines on our website.

Please know that we are both excited and cautious about making this next step. This decision

is the result of a great deal of prayer, consulting and discussion with staff and many of you. As we continue to move forward out of this crisis, we will be looking at re instituting our week day ministries and Tuesday and Thursday morning office hours. Please check with Nancy 744-3449 to calendar your upcoming events.

Thanks to everyone for their support and prayers these past few months as we have had to navigate some very rough water.

Personally, I'm incredibly hopeful and excited to see us make this next step in coming back together physically as a church family.

Should you have any questions on this, please call Pastor Chris, Nancy or myself. Thank you for your faithfulness. You make a difference.

Let the Children Come,
Pastor Heather

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”