

Regathering

at Salisbury Christian Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

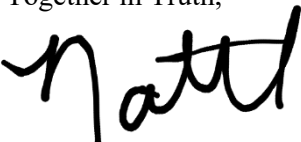
We've missed you. And it is because we've longed to see you that we send this letter with great excitement. After prayerful consideration, the Leadership at SCC has decided to resume in-person worship **services beginning July 12th**. For now, these services will look quite different than those in the past. We know that there are differing opinions regarding COVID-19 and how serious the situation truly is. To be sure, seemingly contradictory information has come from several sources (both reputable and untrustworthy). SCC is gaining policy insight from both state and local health agencies to ensure as safe and healthy an environment as possible. Before we disclose our guidelines for gatherings, it might be helpful to understand our reasoning behind these decisions. First, we value each person's life and strive to love each other sacrificially. Why, you may ask, do I need to wear a mask and keep a physical distance? Because we love each other and vow to temporarily set aside (sacrifice) our politics, pride, and physical comfort. (Philippians 2:3-4) Second, we heed the words of Paul in Romans 13 when he calls those living as Christians in a fallen world to "submit...to the governing authorities". Let's be clear, this submission does not mean blind obedience. Jesus, the Disciples, Paul and many others were disobedient towards the governing authorities but did not expect to be immune to the consequences of that disobedience. They understood that if all consequences for law-breaking were removed, then chaos would ensue. That was not their mission. Rather, they used the consequences of civil disobedience as an opportunity to preach God's Truth. And to provide context to their actions, these individuals' disobedience was always in direct response to an ungodly law or mandate. This is not what we are seeing with our current situation. The governing authorities laying out guidelines to slow the spread of a disease is not an ungodly mandate. Disobedience, at this point, would be foolish and only inject chaos into an already chaotic world. Last, as church leaders, we are called to shepherd the local church (1 Peter 5:2). It would be utterly unwise and outright dangerous for us to ignore the seriousness of this virus. This disease is a wolf if there ever was one. It is a dangerous predator that devastates those most vulnerable. We will fervently defend and protect the flock when it's necessary.

So, as we move forward in God's wisdom and love, let us rejoice for the opportunity to regather as a church family. A family that loves and protects one another. So, without further ado, below are the guidelines decided upon by SCC Leadership for upcoming services:

- Beginning **July 12th**, worship services will begin at **10:30**. Sunday school will not be held at this time.
- **A live broadcast on our Facebook page** will be available for anyone who does not feel comfortable attending at this time.
- **Masks are required** for those aged two and older. We will have masks available at the door.
- **Please refrain** from handshakes, indoor conversations, and any other physical contact with non-family members.
- Pre-packaged Communion sets will be handed out as you enter the building. Please discard them after the service.
- **Seating will be distanced**. Families who live together may sit together. Please follow the usher's direction on the next available seat.
- **There will be no congregational singing or verbal prayer requests taken**. Please submit your prayer requests via the perforated bulletin panel and place in the offering plates at the doors.
- Offering plates will not be passed but will be available at all exits.
- **Children's Church and Nursery care have been suspended**. Feel free to use our fellowship hall or nursery room if needed.
- **Bathrooms are available for use**. Please wash with the antibacterial soap provided. All other rooms are no-go zones.
- We are currently exploring the options for overflow seating with a live broadcast feed. This will be needed for an attendance of 50 people or more.
- **Please wait for the ushers** to dismiss your pew to avoid a traffic jam at the exits.

Whether it's online or in person...we can't wait to worship with you! We miss you. We love you. We'll see you soon!

Together in Truth,



Pastor Kern