

May 30, 2020

Reflections

Survey Results

More than one hundred of you responded to our survey about in-person worship. While specific plans for our re-opening are still being refined, I wanted to share with you the information gleaned from you that will guide our decisions. First, seventy percent of our congregation is vulnerable for complications related to COVID 19 or care for someone who is. Seventy-five percent of our congregation plans to return to worship this summer; forty-five percent will come right away.

These results alone tell us several important things. Many are eager to return to in-person worship. We desire to be together! These numbers also tell us that when we gather, our church family will include people who need to take great care, especially in crowds. Furthermore, these more vulnerable people will count on everyone else who attends worship to do their part to create an environment safe enough for them to worship. The survey also shows that twenty-five percent of our church family will continue to worship primarily on-line for the summer and probably longer. Our on-line worship is a critical point of connection and spiritual resource for our members.

Unsurprisingly, the major concerns expressed were either contracting the virus or passing it along to others. Many people are concerned that good social distancing practices be put in place and maintained. Two aspects of the survey conveyed how much you desire to be together and how much you are willing to do what is best for our whole church family. A good number of you signed up for a 10 am worship service that does not presently exist. You are willing to try something new! Others of you indicated that regardless of your personal preference, you want to do whatever it takes to make in person worship possible for everyone. You understand that being a church is not about our personal desires, but our relationships to one another as the body of Christ.

Your leadership and staff have been meeting to consider all these factors and more. We are working on communication elements to answer your questions. Please be prepared, that things will be different for a time. All decisions we are making now are for June and July. Returning to our building and activities will be a process that will continue to evolve. Thank you so much for your feedback, your patience, and your support.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Melisa