

FROM THE PASTOR

To See (Half) Your Face Again

This summer I read a book called, *To See Your Face Again*. The main character was a young girl who met her first love on a ship just before it wrecked. They survived together on a floating piece of furniture for several days before rescue. Because all the young man's wealth was contained in a case which was lost at sea, he determines that he must go to seek another fortune before he can come to her to propose marriage. The next several hundred pages detail both her longing for him and her scheming how to find him despite his wishes.

These last several months have created in many of us the desire to simply see each other face to face. Children, normally elated by any excuse to miss school, have pleaded to go to school. When we initially gathered for worship, very few of our members were ready for such an experience and coming to church seemed in some ways to simply remind us of what we are missing. This past Sunday, however, we had a capacity crowd for worship. We are glad that we did not have to turn anyone away, but we did use our "overflow" seats.

Many of you learned as children the finger play about the church that says the church is not the building, but the people inside. The church certainly is the people. Yet, the building has been hauntingly empty without you. It was good to be in worship with so many of you again. We are grateful that some of us are ready to gather again as we are aware it is still wise for many of our beloved members to continue to worship at home.

We are making some adjustments to worship to be sure we can continue to worship together without interruption as well as make room for more people. The first adjustment is to encourage you to wear your mask at all times in the buildings. With more people coming, we have to be more careful with each other. When we met previously in the summer many of us got into the habit of removing masks during worship once everyone was seated. At that time there was easily 25-30 feet between families. Masks seemed more burdensome than helpful. This is no longer true. While our sanctuary continues to be arranged for social distancing with the number of people attending last week and moving about the building for Sunday School it is simply not possible to maintain appropriate distance at all times. We are grateful for your cooperation so we can continue to worship together and ensure that the only thing we spread among one another is the love of God! Hope to see (half) your face again on Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Melisa