



May 1, 2020

Subject: Update From Pastor David

Friends,

As you may be aware, Governor Abbott took steps toward “reopening” the state beginning May 1. You may wonder how this will affect our church. Churches remain a major area of concern to community and medical officials. This is largely due to the way churches typically gather and function in person and also to the fact that churches normally have a significant number of people who are in the medically high-risk category in worship. Our Bishop is recommending that churches worship only online for the month of May. Ecclesiastical leaders in the Dallas and Houston areas are also recommending only online worship throughout May. I plan on our church following these recommendations. Meanwhile our church has a task force focused on improving our connection and worship while we are worshipping remotely. We have another task force working on detailed plans to help us have a safe and effective return to the building when we are encouraged to do so. A third task force is focusing on praying that we may have wisdom and discernment for us to make right decisions and actions. While worship is vital to our life as Christians, we must do so in ways that protect the most vulnerable in our church and protect the community as well.

Years ago, in another church, we experienced heavy rain storms and some flooding on Saturday and early Sunday morning. I made it through the floods to the church to conduct 8:30 a.m. worship for a small crowd. We then decided to cancel the other services for that morning. Other churches and organizations also went on with their activities early that morning. Sadly, some local people died getting out in the flood to go to activities. Fortunately, no one died trying to get to our church, but I realized that I had put our congregation’s safety at risk by not canceling the early service. John Wesley’s admonition came to mind - “Do no harm.” So, I am committed to our safety in worship and connection.

As we walk through these days together, I’d ask for three things: your patience as we work to return to in person worship safely, your prayers for our wisdom and the health of our community, and your partnership as you continue to support MUMC and its mission.

I am privileged to work alongside you as we spread the gospel in words and actions to our community.

*~ David*