

Third Church Leadership Update:

Leadership's desire is to honor Governor Inslee's Phased Reopening plan as well as CDC guidelines. The reasoning is as follows:

- We desire to honor and respect our local authorities. We, like them, desire that all our congregants remain safe and healthy.
- There are a number of risks involved with reopening, including the possibility of an outbreak, which would put our most vulnerable members at risk.
- The logistics of reopening safely according to CDC guidelines are complex. They include requirements such as regularly sanitizing all areas and keeping people six feet apart at all times. There are additional questions that would have to be addressed concerning the requiring of face masks, whether or not to limit singing to the Worship Team only, whether all contact and fellowship should be restricted, etc.

At this time, this will mean:

- We will continue to video capture worship services until there is more capacity allowance and a plan is in place that follows CDC guidelines. Due to the size of our congregation this might mean that worship in the sanctuary will not take place until Phase 4 of the state's Phase Reopening plan.
 - The feasibility of an outdoor worship service is being considered but will likely not take place soon.
- Staff will continue working from home as much as possible until at least Phase 2 or 3. Access to the office and facilities will likely remain restricted to staff only until further notice.
- The small group video series will continue, and we encourage virtual gatherings until at least Phase 2 or 3.

As we get closer to Phase 3, more discussion will take place on when and how to open the office as well as when small groups and other gatherings will be allowed in the facilities.

In light of the risks and restrictions, we encourage you to continue doing what you are doing: virtual meetings, cards, and phone calls until we are in a much safer situation.

That said, if you need to contact church staff or leadership, please email them directly or email officemail@third-church.org and Kelsey will direct your email to the appropriate person. The church office phone is being redirected to Esther's personal phone so feel free to call 360-354-1448 Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm (if there is no answer, please leave a message).

We want to take a moment to thank everyone for your continued giving. It brings to mind 1 Chronicles 29: 17-18: "...And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. Lord... keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you."

Please feel free to continue mailing your donations. The mailbox at church is secure and is checked regularly by a staff member and mail is processed weekly. We also encourage you to continue giving online. Our online giving service will be changing soon. The new service will allow for more options such as setting-up an account so you have access to your giving history, designating which fund(s) you want the donation to go (general, missions, ministry shares, benevolence), and will allow you to increase your donation by 3% to offset the processing fee. All these items will be optional.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we seek God's wisdom during this time. We pray that God will keep you safe and healthy. The peace of Christ be with you all!

(Lastly, we were encouraged by the following article and would like to share the link with you:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/church-dont-let-coronavirus-divide/>)