

July 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

First, thank you to everyone who has been praying for Marianne, me, and our family. We deeply appreciate the emails and texts asking about us. You have blessed us with your love and concern. May God bless and keep all of you, as well.

Second, Marianne did test negative for Covid-19. And while we celebrate that, we did learn that she got her test a little earlier than was recommended by the TN Health Department. That's kept us in limbo. Still, she, her mother, and sisters all remain symptom free. That just leaves me. On the advice of the person I spoke with on the TN Covid Hotline, I decided to wait until next week to get tested. The recommendation is to wait for 14 days after last exposure, and Sunday will be 14 days from Marianne's return from Georgia. So, I will get tested on Monday and, at this point, expect to be just fine. It is awfully difficult to quarantine this long, especially when you don't feel bad. But thousands upon thousands of people have learned the hard way that asymptomatic carriers are the real bogeyman in this pandemic. So, at urging of the Worship Ministry Team, I will stay home one more Sunday, and I am deeply grateful to the Rev. Kaye Florence who will lead worship for us this Sunday (July 19).

Like many of you, I was grateful when our county mayor, Joe Grandy, announced the mask mandate for Washington County. People who are studying Covid-19 and treating patients suffering from acute infections say that we could stop the current surge in 4-6 weeks simply by wearing masks, washing our hands, and social distancing. You know that. I know that. And while we're all tired of hearing it, it remains our reality. In an article I read earlier this week, Dr. Tom Sugarman of Antioch, California offered this helpful analogy: "We know how to mitigate and decrease the harm [of Covid-19], and that's by wearing masks...It's really kind of like not running a red light. I mean, we don't run a red light, so we don't get in an accident, and so we don't create an accident for other people."

Mask-wearing may feel like getting stuck at a really long red light. But we all know how dangerous it is when people fail to see or decide to ignore red lights. So, please! For your sake and for the sake of those around you, continue taking all the appropriate precautions.

As of right now, the ERT and Session are still looking at and praying for beginning a carefully-phased resumption of in-person worship on August 9. A new group to oversee the implementation of recommendations approved by the session has been formed and has started meeting. Having said that, we are hearing more and more how quickly churches can become incubators for this virus, and, as we have said many times before, our first concern is the health and well-being of everyone in our congregation. So, if the numbers continue to rise in our area, we will rethink that decision.

In the meantime, please know that our work together as part of the body of Christ continues. And if there is anything you want me or one of the ministry teams to know, don't hesitate to contact me or one of the ministry team chairs.

May God be real to you and real to others through you, now and always.

Peace,

Pastor Allen

JPC Notes:

-We know that last Sunday's live stream of the service had some issues. Bill Reese opened a YouTube account and tested an hour's worth of streaming from that platform, but he encountered similar technical difficulty. Some churches are using pre-recorded services, but we really want to continue working on the live stream because we plan to continue streaming even after we begin to phase back into public worship. Please be patient with us as we keep working on this.

-The Missions Ministry Team has been keeping in touch with Family Promise who has been continuing their vital ministry to homeless families, but has lost some host and support churches over the last three months. Right now, their biggest need is financial, since they are now

putting families up in motels for a week at a time. To that end, the missions team entertained and passed the following motion: *That we provide a check to Family Promise to cover 3 week's lodging for one family at the Red Roof Inn, and \$400 in gift cards from local restaurants at this time and then reevaluate in 2-3 months. The total would look like this: $\$411.88 \times 3 = \$1235.64 + \$400 = \1635.64 .* (That is out of \$5908.07 left in its 2020 budget) We are very grateful for your contributions to JPC that allow us to continue helping neighbors in need!

Prayer Lists:

Church Members:

Evelyn Adams, Pam Dunn, Wilma Florence, Hal Knight, Charlotte McDonald, Jeri Paolini, Jill Sauceman, Bob Scheu, Richard Schwerdtfeger, Cheryl Smith, Tony Smith, Beverlee Wightman (*foot surgery last week*)

On-going Prayers for Members:

Summer Buchanan, Sara Nan Byrd, Betty Correll, Joseph Dykes, Alisa & Barbara Goolsby, Elizabeth Hoss, Cherry Smith, Larry Smith, Ruth Verhegge

Church Prayer List of Family & Friends and Relatives

Faith Griffey and son-Cooper Brook Adolf (granddaughter and great-grandson of Jim & Charlotte Pahriss, Delbert Elliott, a friend of the DRC, Audrey Sinisi (related to the Comer family)

July Birthdays:

Mike Floyd	1
Tony Snapp	3
Margaret Childress	5
Rebecca Comer	8
Tony Delucia	9
Terri Knight	11
Rena Helms	11
Ellen Barnard	16
Charlotte McDonald	18
Debbie Walls	20

Jim Cash	23
Vivian Cash	24
Summer Buchanan	29
Anna Walls	30