

July 25, 2020

From: Pastor Allen

Dear Friends,

Greetings from a Covid-free Huff household! The last two weeks of quarantine were anything but normal. (Though for an introvert like me, it wasn't all bad, either!) All is well with us and with Marianne's family in GA. Marianne and I appreciate your prayers, your expressions of concern, and your patience with me as I stayed extra-close to home for a while. I especially want to thank The Revs. Diana Moore and Kaye Florence for leading two beautiful worship services while I was away. It is SO good to have such wonderful resources in our congregation!

As we move forward, we do so while the virus is reaching ever more deeply into our area. The critical statistic that the ERT is watching is the average rate of new Covid-19 cases per day per 100,000 residents over 14-days. And the recommendation of the TN Department of Health and the CDC is to exercise increased vigilance regarding in-person gatherings when that number exceeds the threshold of 10.0 new cases per 100,000. As of this writing, Washington County, TN's rate is 18.8. That more than doubles the rate from the previous week - 8.33. (To view the reports from the TN Department of Health: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/data/epi-curves.html> To find the Northeast Region, click the thin bar just beneath the words "Select a Region.")

In response to this trend, the ERT recommendation to the session is to postpone the proposed August 9 date to resume in-person worship until that average rate numbers consistently indicate that folks in our area are more diligently practicing recommended safety protocols.

The final decision belongs to the session, and I have sent an email to all elders asking them to spend some time thinking about possibilities for alternative gatherings. So, while we discuss the recommendation of the ERT, we will also try to think creatively about ways we might be able to gather safely in the event that we continue with online worship only.

Please keep the session in prayer just as we are keeping you in our prayers. Every one of us takes this not only seriously but personally. We miss being together every bit as much as you do.

God's blessings and peace be with you all.

***Pastor Allen***

**From Stewardship/Finance:** The SFMT met last Monday evening and again acknowledged how faithful and generous everyone has been through the last four months. THANK YOU ALL!! We also decided that for the sake of maintaining a system that allows us to uphold our careful internal control policies, we will ask everyone to continue mailing in your tithes and offerings until we establish a more-nearly-normal process on Sunday mornings. Again, thank you all for your continued support of the JPC budget and all of its ministries.

**From CE:** With deep gratitude and prayers for Godspeed, we announce that our Youth Director, Brooke Ransdell, will conclude her time with JPC as of July 31. Brooke has been the longest-serving youth director in recent memory, and we all wish her well as she moves to Knoxville to begin the next chapter in her life. *Thank you, Brooke! And may God bless you now and always!*

***HAPPY 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Anna Walls!! (On July 30<sup>th</sup>)***

**Prayer Lists:**

**Church Members:**

Evelyn Adams, Kathie Dameron, 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**

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  
Renaë Helm 11  
Ellen Barnard 16  
Charlotte McDonald 18  
Debbie Walls 20  
Jim Cash 23  
Vivian Cash 24  
Summer Buchanan 29  
Anna Walls 30