Hello Beloved,

I am so thankful that we will once again be gathering together in our Sanctuaries for Worship this Sunday. Taking time to quarantine for the past 3 weeks was important as we continue to do our best to safe guard our community from the Corona Virus. Thankfully and with God's blessing we have not had any cases arise in our church community as a result of our worship services or church events, since we reopened in the summer. That is in large part due to our faith community being diligent, prayerful and cautious. You have made the choice to stay home when you are sick or running a fever, you have made the choice to worship online rather than in person when you did not feel safe and you have chosen to self-quarantine when you felt you may have come in contact with someone positive for COVID 19. In addition, our church leadership has put policies and procedures in place to safe guard the safety of all who come to worship with us. As we learn more, we evolve and change. Every step of the way we listen and we care. We base all of our decisions on our love for God, our love for each of you and our desire to grow and strengthen the ministry God has called us to. Each of you matter to us, regardless of age, gender, or political affiliation. Please never doubt that.

So, here is our plan going forward. Please know that we and our practices will continue to evolve and change as we listen and learn.

Distancing:

Stonepile- We have created space in the front of the sanctuary that is designated as Masks Required Space. We have also designated entrance A as the masks required entrance and exit for our people who need that security of space. I am making my Pastor's parking space available for other people to park in for the foreseeable future, so that you have close access to that entrance.

Springvale- We are still working on creating an annex space at Springvale. Which means that this Sunday will have the current policy in place and we ask that you only come if you feel safe in a space where not all may be wearing face masks. What we hope to have available by Sunday Nov. 1st, is the Picnic building as a worship annex for Springvale. There will be sound and video available for everyone to be able to participate in worship in real time on Sunday's. We will alternate that space each Sunday between 'current policy' and 'masks required' so that everyone has the ability to worship in the Sanctuary as well. I know this is not perfect, but it is the only way that we can make not only the space safe, but dedicated entry and exit spaces safe as well. Once we have everything prepared we will announce those plans.

Joys and Concerns:

Due to the spacing that we will be providing, it will be difficult to gather all of the Joys and Concerns in the way we have been collecting them. We are asking that everyone share their Joys and Concerns by email or phone to the church office by Thursday of each week. If something arises last minute please still email or call and we will do our best to have it shared on Sunday. If not, it will go out by email to the church on Monday. This new practice begins immediately.

Singing:

One of the other concerns we have heard has been about singing in church. Here is what we are going to do for the time being:

We will be providing videos of the hymns being sung so that you will not have to sing during worship. If you feel moved to hum that is perfectly fine. If you feel moved to sing we ask that you wear a mask or make sure that you are at least 12 feet distanced from others that could be effected.

For this Sunday we will be showing YouTube videos for the hymns. I am seeking volunteers from both churches who would be willing to come, one evening a week, to be recorded singing our hymns for each Sundays worship service. These will then be used during our worship service. If you are willing and able please let us know in the church office.

This too is not perfect, and if we come up with a better way of doing this we will let you know and adjust accordingly.

Thank you beloved for rolling with the changes with us. We appreciate your prayers, help and support. We may not be perfect in all that we do, but we always attempt to be faithful. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday in our Sanctuaries.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill