

May 20, 2020

Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”

Dear member of Guardian,

We have definitely missed seeing all of you and are looking forward to that day when we can gather together in worship again! One often repeated comment is that the online services and devotions are good but it's not the same as being together in God's house and seeing one another. Those in leadership and our Covid Response Team are in conversation as to how we can move forward with reopening in a safe and healthy way. Change is necessary and the details of it all will continue to be a work in progress. As we move forward with God's grace and the Holy Spirit we need to be a church that strives for unity and love for all.

Three thoughts:

- 1) Be willing to make some sacrifices for the good of all even with differing opinions and judgments regarding the changes. Not everything will be back the way it was before the stay-at-home order went into effect. Some measures are for the benefit of those who are most vulnerable to infection and those who are most anxious about spreading the disease. Other measures will ask members to use their own judgment in deciding what is proper for them. Remember the words of St. Paul, “But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” (1 Corinthians 8:9)
- 2) Show humility in realizing that all the “experts” and ourselves don't have all the answers in these unique times. There is a whole mess of information, misinformation, and speculation during this time. Be patient and loving to those with differing opinions or who are trusting a different authority for information during this crisis. Remember, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
- 3) Have patience as we move forward with the changes and adjustments as we go along. This is uncharted territory for everyone. While we love receiving feedback and opinions we cannot and should not try to please everyone. Be understanding that decisions are made with good intentions and weighing many points of view. If you have a suggestion to improve something submit it respectfully and understand if it is not a suggestion we will implement. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” (1 Corinthians 13:4)

The devil is at work to divide the body of Christ. Be on guard against such attacks and treat your Christian brothers and sisters with love and respect. Let the world see that we are Christians by the love that we show to one another.

Another letter will be coming out with details of reopening the church for public worship. We are hoping to resume Church services as soon as possible.

May God bless and keep us all until we gather together again! God's peace!

Pastor Mews

Pastor Dan