



Looking at the Future with Wisdom

It is a difficult thing, to consider the future, as one never really knows what the future holds. How much more difficult is it, then, when we live in such turbulent times as these? But still, we must make decisions as best as we can. My prayer often in these times is for wisdom. I am reminded of the proverb, “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!” (Proverbs 16:16).

The Church Council met yesterday to discuss when we might possibly return to in-person worship. While this is something we all want, we also want to err on the side of wisdom and prudence. We want to be good stewards of the precious life that God has given us, and the life and health of our community. Coming back earlier rather than later would come with significant restrictions according to the guidelines that we have been given from the conference. For example: we would not be able to sing in worship, as this is an act that has been proven to spread Coronavirus.

We are also looking at the virus statistics in our area. As of the writing of this article, the CDC is still recommending gatherings of no more than 10. The trend of the virus is still increasing rather than decreasing, and indeed there was a significant spike in the growth of the virus on the first week of May when many secular businesses reopened.

Our plan, as of now, is to continue to monitor the trend of the virus and to monitor CDC recommendations. The Church Council will meet again on June 7th to discuss if it is wise to, at that time, choose a date to return to in-person worship. That means we will be worshipping online-only until at least June 7th.

I know that some will be very happy that we are waiting a little while longer, and others will be frustrated that we are not opening sooner. While I do believe that waiting is the wise decision, please know that I also share in the frustration. I am frustrated that I do not get to see your faces. I am frustrated that we cannot sing and share in the Sacrament as we normally do. I am frustrated that mission trips and camps have been canceled. I am frustrated about so much...

But frustration will not change anything. So I pray, as many around the world do, the great serenity prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

KIDZONE NEWS TO OUR KIDZONE KIDS



We hope you are all doing okay. In the last few months, you have had many changes in your school and church

activities. We miss seeing all of you. God wants you to remember in difficult times that you are never alone; when you are weak, He is strong and His love will never give up on us.

Enjoy your Summer break- looking forward to seeing you all again.



Blessings and love,
Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

Worship continues to stream live on Facebook and is uploaded to YouTube following the service.

How Can you Still Give?

Online Giving:

<https://sandspringsumc.org/>
Click on the "Giving" link in the top right hand corner and fill out the information and click "Continue."

You can also mail your checks to:

Sand Springs UMC
319 N. Main St.
Sand Springs, OK 74063
Reminder, the PO Box is no longer active.

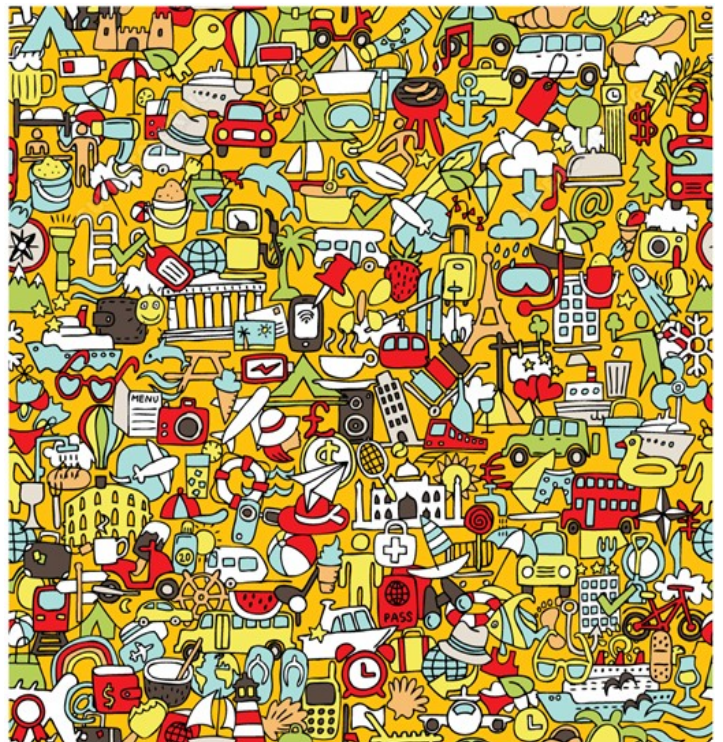
It is important to continue to support the church and it's ministries because as we know, the building is not the church—YOU ARE!

We are still answering your calls, e-mails, texts... And we are returning calls as well. This is all temporary and we will be reunited again very soon.

When's the office opening?

Pastor Stephen and I (Tracey) will be back in the office on Tuesday, May 26th. That is the plan for now. If there is a spike in the virus, we will obviously close again until it is safe to return. In the meantime, we are continuing to take your calls from our homes and meet your needs as they arise. God bless and we look forward to seeing your faces again real soon!

For the kiddos



"The Prayer Box"

Max & Sharon Schuermann (Both are doing very well!), Philip Comer, Sylvia Johnson, Ralph & Roberta Rand, June Brown, Shawn Cole, Shelley Adams, Lori Halzler, Martha Scudder, Betty & Linda Lund, Wava Burt, Ralph Ward, Bob Hula, Gordonna Fisher, Bill Caldwell, Jim & Vi McAllister, Barbara McClintock, Montie & Betty Box, Bruce Warren, Maureen Gibson, and Last Week's Prayer Chains & Unspoken Requests