

In Touch

IT'S TIME FOR SOME GOOD NEWS...

Dear Friend:

At Franklin Church we are now officially past one month of no “in person” worship service. As a country it's been about 2 ½ months since COVID19 began making headlines. For the most part, for the past 2 ½ months we have had nothing but bad news. For me personally, something changed yesterday. For the first time I heard both the President and our Governor, on the same day, talk about re-opening our country and our State. I believe yesterday was a turning point – I believe we are going to get more and more good news. I have collected some facts over the past 6 weeks, check-out the facts below and see what could have happened, but didn't. The following information is good news.

Early projections for our country said that as many as 200 million Americans could get infected. So far: 632,548 (April 16, CDC). Dr. Fauci stated deaths could be between 100,000 – 200,000 (March 29, CNN interview). So far approximately 31,000 (April 17, CDC). On March 12 Dr. Amy Acton (Ohio) said there were as many as 100,000 Ohioans infected and it would get worse. As of April 17 there were only 9,800 confirmed cases (ODH). Deaths in Ohio were projected to reach a couple thousand or more. So far, 447 deaths (Dr. Amy Acton ODH, April 17). Dr. Acton, the ODH, and Governor DeWine projected a peak of 10,000 new cases per day (March 25th, daily briefing). It's now been scaled way back to a peak of perhaps 1,600 per day. It may on peak at less than 400 per day, but in the April 16 -17 24 hour period there were only 29 new cases reported. Perhaps the best news is in the morbidity numbers (morbidity is the percentage of deaths per illness). Early numbers were predicting a 3-6% morbidity death rate. That would be unfathomable for an coronavirus strain, those numbers are too scary to even consider. Good news: the morbidity death rate will be somewhere around .05%. Yes, 5 times the regular flu rate but far, far from original projections. The .05% may go down even further once total cases are discovered.

Wow...a lot of numbers but it's also a lot of good news. Let's pray for all the victims and all their families. I've said it before, one death is one too many. However, what DIDN'T happen is good news. When will we re-open the church and get to see each other's smiling faces? Soon, we hope. The Management Team makes that decision. We WILL NOT re-open until it is safe to do so. “Safe” is a relative term and subjective. Be assured, if when we open you still feel you need to wear a mask or gloves or both, please feel free to do so. Personally, I would rather you feel safe and be at church than to feel embarrassed over PPE and not come to church. We will only re-open if we feel it is safe for attendees to NOT NEED to wear PPE, but wearing PPE is an individual decision. We will have masks if you want one, at this time unfortunately, we don't have surgical gloves.

Thanking God For Good New...Pastor Mike