

In Touch

WE HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE

It's finally here...the moment I hope you have been praying for. The day I hope you've been looking for since March 16th – our “grand re-opening”. March 15th was our last day of corporate worship inside due to COVID19 and what we *didn't* know about it. We also just couldn't predict when we could safely comeback, and until the last 2 weeks we didn't know what protocols should be followed. The prayerful decision that we could safely re-open was made by the Management Team on April 31, with a May 17th re-start date. Last week I emailed the changes we are making – for now. Let me be clear about this: **NONE** of the changes we have made stop us from giving full worship and glory to God. Just this past Monday the Management Team implemented 2 more protocols for now: no bulletins (only PowerPoint on the screen) and all Bibles, Hymn books, and papers have been removed from the pews (avoids contact). Some of you may wonder why we are taking so many steps of safety. This isn't an official survey, but I would say about 90% of the churches that are re-opening are taking nearly the same exact steps of safety.

There is a biblical application here: Joshua 3. This is the chapter where God says to the Israelites: “Okay, you have endured 40 years of wandering, now it's time to move forward again -GO!”. Very interesting that in v. 4 Joshua instructed the people on how they would restart their journey – there would be a certain protocol to follow. He gave the protocol because he actually said: “You have never been this way before”. Certainly we can relate, none of us have ever been through COVID19 before, nor have any of us gone through a grand re-opening of the church after COVID19. Read v. 4, it even talks about social distancing (from the Holy Ark).

How will we go this way? How will we get through the slow but sure and necessary of re-start? I am not sure, none of us are completely sure. I thing I know for sure, we **WILL** get through it just fine and need to believe Joshua 1:9, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”. In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer: Our Grand re-opening, Parents working from home with young children, front-line workers, wisdom and direction for governmental leaders locally, state, and country