

HCC Family,

It has been nearly 1 year since the COVID-19 Pandemic completely turned our world upside down. Each one of us has been impacted by this virus, whether suffering from it ourselves, losing a loved one, and making sacrifices with work, school, and time with loved ones while trying avoid any possible spread of the virus.

This past Wednesday Governor Abbott announced a new executive order related to COVID-19 effectively removing mask mandates and restrictions on businesses. There is much to take comfort in as more and more folks are getting the vaccines and the rate of the spread has declined. At the same time, the risks this virus poses are very real and should not be taken lightly.

At HCC, we have seen an increase in our in-person worship at the 9:30 a.m. indoor worship service. It is clear that many are feeling more comfortable coming to worship in person where a year ago coming online was really the only option. This is good news!!! We are thankful that many are finding it a good option to come back to in-person worship. As I wrote last June as we started re-gathering in person- we were made to worship God- and to be able to gather as a people being built into a spiritual house, we are more than individuals; when we gather corporately we reveal God's glory to one another and to the world.

Your session has worked hard to make worship available for our church family and visitors alike so that we can grow together as the body of Christ. The way we are currently worshipping will not change. Until we decide otherwise, we will still maintain social distancing in our sanctuary and strongly encourage our congregation to wear a mask during worship as a way to look out for the interests of others. If anyone is feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID, we ask them to worship with us remotely until they return to health.

As the days are getting warmer, the 8:30 outdoor service will be a wonderful option for those who want to gather together in person and have plenty of space to spread out and worship on the 'front lawn of the Lord'.



Let me say a word about Holy Week: We will be having a Maundy Thursday service indoors at 7 p.m. with Communion. On Good Friday, we will have a worship service outside (weather permitting) also at 7 p.m. Both of these services will be available for remote worship as well. For Easter, our 8:30 outdoor worship service will be a full worship service. Because of this, our indoor service will change times to 10 a.m. and will be livestreamed.

God made us for worship. In life and in death, we belong to God. Worship reminds us who we belong to and who is in control. As we worship, we bear witness to the world about where our trust lies and in who our hope is in the midst of the turmoil and the chaos. Gathering for worship shines a light into a world that is walking in darkness and invites others to walk in God's marvelous light.

With hope in Jesus,

Pastor Jonathan