

December 1, 2020

Greetings Redemption Hill Family -

Christmas is upon us - a season where we celebrate God sending his Son into the darkness to shine the light! We are living through distinctly trying times - times that even alter how we gather for worship, or to celebrate holidays - yet Jesus has come into the mess of our world. We are known and loved by a gracious God who cares for us during every season - good and bad. Give thanks! Our broken world has not been left adrift, but God himself entered humanity in a quiet little Judean town to bring ultimate peace. Rejoice!

During this tumultuous time, RHC continues to strive to put Jesus first and be as cooperative as possible with our government in facing the pandemic. Periodically our overseers re-examine how we can best do this.

The last couple of weeks have brought good news about vaccines that should begin to change everything by springtime and bad news about the predicted winter spike in COVID cases. Our political leaders have asked us all to be particularly vigilant - and we expect them to continue asking us to modify our meeting structure throughout the winter. Thankfully, our season tends to be mild, but weather can still be a challenge at times.

The well-being of our congregation and our faithfulness in making disciples requires some face-to-face ministry, so the possibility of bad weather necessitates "emergency" procedures for when outdoor gathering is not practical. Here are some key things to know for this season:

- Outdoor ministry remains our standard mode of operation for worship services and the various smaller, disciple-making ministries we offer (including Children, Students, Rooted, ABCs, Life Groups, Bible Studies and Discipleship Groups of all sorts), however, we will adjust during bad weather.
- Bad weather on a Sunday may result in cancelling our lawn gathering and moving all worship online. Notice of any cancellations will go out no later than an hour before the service via social media, email, and - in certain cases - telephone.

- With smaller, discipleship focused groups we will either cancel the meeting or move it to an online format the first week. However, multiple consecutive weeks of bad weather will particularly harm these ministries, so these ministries may move indoors when this happens. We will continue to follow safety protocols. Leaders will need to be creative and all of us will need to be gracious and patient because groups will be no larger than 10 people per room, so some things may need adjustment, but the ministry will be able to continue.

One more very important thing to note: we are excited to reintroduce in person children's ministry on Sundays! Parents are the primary disciplers of their children, but the RHC family plays an important supportive role. We believe we can effectively and safely begin to do this in person again. The state has provided protocols for schools, cohort groups and day care centers to safely work with children. Using the guidelines relevant for us we will start small and grow the ministry over time. At present we are offering ministry for children aged 12-36 months and for children 3yrs - 1st grade. In order to ensure proper safety, families should sign up in advance for this by clicking going to www.redemptionhc.com.

Thank you for your patience, your flexibility and your graciousness in the ever changing, always challenging ministry environment. To describe 2020 as anything but "long" and "difficult" would be dishonest. This holy-day season may seem stripped down and strained. But if we let this deter us from worshipping our faithful God, who has a plan in all of this, that would be an even greater mistake. God is working all things together for good for his people. This is true for your family, for my family and for the RHC family. He has new mercies every morning that we can count on. As we patiently and prayerfully endure, he meets us. May you know his presence each moment.

If there is any way we as a church can be of help, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any of our overseers. We would love to hear from you.

For the Leadership Team,
Pastor Robert