

September 4, 2020

Dear Emmaus family and friends,

The weeks seem to go on and on. One week feels just like the one before. Sometimes it's hard to remember what day of the week it is. This is normal for Carol and me. Perhaps it is for you, too.

While these markers of time may have changed in our lives, the Word of God doesn't change. The Word of God is constant and eternal. Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands eternal." That is good news for us today and every day.

Many churches, businesses, schools (and on and on) have been closed for many months. There is no way to calculate the cost of closure in terms of financial loss, loss of progress, loss of membership or clients, loss of life. The list does go on and on.

Your Congregation Council has been working with the question: When should we reopen our doors for in-person worship? For meetings and organizations that use our facility? How do we do this safely? What Covid-19 resources do we use as 'markers' in making these decisions?

We have put together a team of people who are passionate about these very questions. We met via Zoom meeting last Wednesday evening. We will meet again this Wednesday at 7 p.m. (also via Zoom).

We are putting together a plan to (hopefully) reopen for in-person worship on Sunday, September 27. There are many decisions yet to be made to make our reopening safe for everyone. We are watching Coronavirus trends – especially as our schools have just reopened. We are concerned that positive cases may increase. That may affect our decision.

Please pray for medical personnel and front-line workers, for our leaders here at Emmaus, for the work of the church world-wide, for our local, state, and national leaders. We are all in this together. Let's get through this all together.

Grace upon grace,  
~Pastor Mark