

Dear Highlands' Family

As believers in and followers of Jesus, God has united us together as a spiritual family. As such, we long to be together for times of worship and fellowship. However, due to the current pandemic we've had to refrain from being together so that we might express genuine Christian love in an effort to protect one another. I do hope that you've been encouraged through our virtual worship as well as the other means by which we can continue to love and encourage one another.

Recently, the Session met to consider a path for reopening Highlands, especially regarding corporate worship. Together, the Elders and Pastors considered many issues such as the percentage of those in the church who are at risk (perhaps 80%), the recent lifting of the stay-at-home order for all Georgia residents, the opening of all businesses in Georgia, as well as the uptick in virus cases in Gwinnett county which is over 100 cases per day since Governor Kemp lifted the stay-home-order. The Elders realize that some of the reported cases may be due to increased testing but that still means there are more people in Gwinnett that have the virus. We just know who they are by the increased testing. The Session prayerfully and carefully considered these issues as well as the high calling to love one another and have decided that Highlands should wait a while longer before in-person worship may resume. However, there is some good news that we would like to share with you.

The Session is aware that many of you would like to participate in the Lord's Supper. As such, the Elders have decided that in keeping with Scripture and our Standards, we could properly serve communion to small groups meeting in the fellowship hall. We have scheduled August 9 as the date we will open the fellowship hall for a brief communion service. There are currently three times, 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm, in which families may sign up to come and join in a brief communion service. Only eight (8) families may come during one of those scheduled times and as such, there will be a sign-up page on the website where each family may register for their desired time. If all of the time slots fill up, we will gladly extend as many hours on that Sunday as are necessary to accommodate every family. If you do not have access to the website you may call Betsy Whitson and she will assist you. In order for this to work there will be some requirements that must be followed and are listed below.

As God's shepherds, we're excited that we can offer this brief communion service and do so as safely as is possible. We hope that those of you who would like to join in will do so in keeping with the safety requirements so that we can express genuine love toward one another.

For the Session
Pastor Mark

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING THE COMMUNION SERVICE

- If you have flu like symptoms or have been exposed to the virus, please stay home.
- Arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the service.
- Masks are necessary. One will be provided if you do not have one or forget yours.
- Temperatures will be taken with a touchless thermometer before entering.
- Maintain social distancing between families.
- Upon entering please use the touchless hand sanitizer and then proceed to the fellowship hall, choose a family table, and remain there throughout the service.
- Elders will be present and will assist as necessary. They will also dispense the elements. Please do not grab the trays as the elements are passed to you. Carefully choose and take a cup from the tray. Do not touch anything else.
- We will dismiss by tables out through the fellowship hall door to the parking lot. Do not congregate by the door but proceed out to the parking lot where you may interact if so desired. Please maintain masks and social distancing between families.