

Church Family,

We are excited and preparing for Sunday Worship on May 17th at 10:30. Please read the attached document sent Monday, May 4th. This document details how we are both preparing for May 17th and how that morning will look when you arrive. If changes are made to this we will communicate those to you.

I know that even with a document and the communication there may still be confusion about what exactly this all looks like. I understand that and hope I can clarify as much as is possible.

Here is a list of questions that I hope will help answer.

What is driving the decision to have worship in the gym on May 17th and not the Sanctuary?

1. This decision is NOT driven by Executive Order No. 30 nor The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives document titled, "Guidance for Gathering Together in Houses of Worship".
2. The Sanctuary is in the process having a new roof put on and the steeple will need major repairs. At the time the steeple repairs are complete the ceiling in the sanctuary can be repainted and we can worship together again in that beautiful space.

Why are we not having Sunday School or on campus small groups at this time?

1. This decision is made because we are one church with many generations who enjoy each other together. Until every generation can safely have Sunday School at the same time, in their own building, your pastor is asking for patience from all generations.
2. The Children's Building took a hard hit on Easter Sunday night. We have broken windows, broken roof vents and drains, roof replacement, ceiling tiles removed, furniture being removed, flooring damaged. All of these repairs are scheduled, however, it will take time as so many structures in the Chattanooga area were also damaged.
3. This decision was also made with the wise counsel of our local association of churches and with The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives document titled, "Guidance for Gathering Together in Houses of Worship".

Why can't we start working on cleaning up the church grounds?

1. At this point, there are multiple trucks and heavy equipment that will need to access the building and travel across the church lawn. This will create ruts on top of what already exists from the storm cleanup. Until this step is complete, there is no reason to fix the lawn until it will remain in a beautiful future state.
2. We have 5 very large stumps that remain to be removed by a gracious company who has offered their services to our church. When these are removed, the area around all 28 removed stumps can be smoothed and landscaped.

I hope this answers questions you may have. I know this is a time when it is difficult to communicate, as we are not able to be together in person. Believe me, all of this is not the best-case scenario, but rather it is what we are working through diligently. God is good and has been so faithful to our church during these days. Let us remain faithful and steadfast in our patience and testimony as we wait on Him to powerfully continue to act on our behalf.

Pastor Jeremy