



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning, church family. It is Monday again – can you believe it? These weeks are flying by at what seems to be an ever-increasing rate. I remember as a kid listening to adults say that, and I couldn't understand. Sometimes it seemed as if time was standing still. But the good news is that if time is going faster, we will be out of this Covid-19 pandemic more quickly. In fact, I saw a news report from several medical experts saying that we could be back to normal as early as April. Now, even if that is a little bit too optimistic, isn't it great to think that we are closer to the end of this horrible period of history than we are to the beginning?**

**Now, that has gotten me to thinking – and I know some of you are saying, “Uh-oh! It's always**

**dangerous for the pastor to be thinking!” But hear me out. If the world is going to be getting back to normal sooner than later, what is that going to look like for the church in general and our church in particular? Honestly, I expect that wearing masks and social distancing will probably be a part of our immediate future – maybe even the rest of the year. But that also means we can start thinking about opening up completely with all of our regular activities. We will be talking with the Leadership Team this week to decide about getting back to on-campus Sunday School. Our only drawback is that we need some workers in our preschool Sunday School classes. Please, please, please pray about helping out. We are also in need of nursery workers. We are trying to hire someone for this job, so, if you would like to get paid to serve or if you would like to volunteer, please let Forrest know. Once we get these positions filled, we will be more ready to get back to class.**

**There are some other programs and ministries**

**that I want us to begin thinking about the possibilities, but for now, can I share a bit of my heart with you? One of my biggest concerns about the pandemic shutdown is that we have become comfortable “not doing” the work of the ministry. Please understand – this is human nature. Serving people, meeting needs, doing ministry – none of these come easily. Our sin nature says, “Take care of #1 first.” It is our redeemed nature that says, “Take care of others first.” It is going to take each of us praying about what we need to be doing and then submitting our will to the Father’s will. Listen, I know that I am not perfect, and I often err on the side of moving too fast, but I am truly praying about and working on being right where the Lord wants me to be. Will you join me in that kind of soul-searching and sometimes agonizing journey to be the person that God is calling us to be in the midst of such uncertain times? That’s my heart. I would truly be interested in knowing what is on yours.**

**I’m done preaching now! Don’t forget we have a**

**big day this Sunday. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper in the morning services, and we have deacon ordination and business meeting starting at 5 p.m. Please make plans to join us for all of these important opportunities.**

**God bless you,  
Bro. Ben**