

# Church Chat Notes

*August 30, 2020*

**Starting Point:** *Let's all acknowledge that the coronavirus has created disruptions in our lives, work, schools ... and also in church. We are doing things that we think are wise for the church.*

## **Worship Services:**

- We plan to continue the way they are
- We are working on ways to make the live stream more reliable, and with better sound
- We are grateful that we're able to have our face to face services, and that so many people come. Our average attendance before coronavirus was 150, and most Sundays there are about 90 here.

## **Ignite Ministry:**

- We plan to resume Ignite Wed program -- as well as other things they do -- as we have in the past.
- There is no change, other than to follow the same mask guidelines that schools are following

## **Children's Ministries:**

- This is where we will see the most changes
- We WILL RESUME nursery, starting the Sunday after Labor Day (Sept 13)
- We had planned to resume other programs -- but we're NOT going to be doing that
- We will NOT be resuming Sunday school (except for the Q and A sessions ... Mark will talk about that later)
- We will NOT be resuming Children in Worship
- We will NOT be resuming our Wednesday programs (like GEMS, Boys Club, and the Wed meal)

## **Here is WHY:**

- We have concerns about how to do some of these programs safely (like Children in Worship)
- We understand that most of the families are not planning to send their kids to these programs ... and we also don't expect visitors to come
- We recognize that families are dealing with a lot of uncertainty and stress about the Fall.

**So we've talked about what we're NOT doing -- let's talk about what ARE PLANNING ON DOING:**

1. We plan to make more emphasis on equipping parents for the discipleship and training of their kids. The curriculum for children's Sunday School that we've been using has been adapted this year for use in homes . We'll be getting that material to parents.
2. We plan to have the teachers of these programs keep in touch with students and parents. We'd like to re-evaluate these plans in October ... with input from the teachers, based on what they're hearing from kids and parents. So it's possible that some of these programs could get started up again in mid-Fall ... but that depends on how the Fall shapes up.
3. We are planning to do whatever we can to connect with parents and students in this area to help however we can with schooling and child care. We're working with one "schooling pod" that is pooling parents together to have science classes here. And I am planning to make the Ignite center available as a study hall for students ...
4. And we are also going to be emphasizing discipleship connections in small groups. Pastor Mark is going to talk more about that:

**Discipleship Ministry**

- The coronavirus is disrupting a lot of what we're doing -- and it's forcing us to face this question: *"Are we an organization that offers programs, or are we a community that supports each other in care and spiritual growth?"*
- If we're just about offering programs, then this Fall will be a bummer, and people will disconnect (because programs are all we've got)
- But we want to keep focusing on relationships and support, however we can do that (through teachers connecting informally with students ... and through all of us finding ways to connect with people in the church)
- I talked a couple weeks ago about getting connected into quarantine pods, or quaranteams, if you're not able to join our face to face worship.
- We're getting ready to launch some new discipleship groups ... our hope is that many of us will connect with others in small groups