

UPDATED: June 4, 2020

Dear Shiloh Members:

Since late March, our church has responded to the unexpected end to in-person worship and community gatherings with imagination, generosity, and compassion for those touched by the pandemic. As your pastor, I have seen that in the midst of your own pain and panic you, clergy and laypersons alike, have been a comforting presence to the membership and other. You have become what psychologist Carl Jung calls the “wounded healer;” as you offered the help of sincere prayer and unity with others in their hour of need. Words cannot express my gratitude.

As we now turn toward the future of regathering for in-person worship; we do so with Great Expectancy and Caution. Let us follow some basic Biblical advice to keep everyone safe as we start the process of re-gathering. Philippians 2:4 says we are to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let's wear our masks for that reason. Romans 14:13 says we are not to judge others or cause them to stumble. So just because we may not be anxious, we should be sensitive to those who are. Romans 15:13 reminds us that we can trust our God of hope who fills us with joy and peace. Perhaps you know someone who could use a little support and encouragement as we are starting to re-open things. The Great Commandment states, “You shall love the Lord your God ... and love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39). During this pandemic, love for ourselves is expressed in the ways we protect ourselves from getting infected. In the same way, love for our neighbor is expressed in the ways we protect them from getting infected.

As followers of Jesus, we make our way forward trusting in God’s abiding presence and peace, while we take our own place among all God’s children in this uncertain time. Thus, we must prepare for different methods of regathering. The way forward depends not only on this virus but also our actions as individuals, churches, communities, and governments. The way forward will be a matter of faithful patience, prayer, and wisdom. What follows then is a very brief outline of our REGATHERING in the sanctuary for worship. You can read a more detail version on our website <https://www.shilohmbcalaska.org/> which will be posted by Friday.

Beginning Sunday June 7, 2020:

1. In-Person Gathering for Worship at 11:00am service. No entry after 11:00am so please be timely
2. 11:00am Worship Online still available <https://www.shilohmbcalaska.org/watch/>
3. Please wear masks when entering facility; can be removed once at your seat
4. You do not need to RSVP; just show up
5. Follow directions of staff personnel when you arrive
6. WELCOME HOME!!!

NOTE: Sunday School will be moved to 9:00am.

I Remain In Christ’s Service,

Your Pastor,

Rev. Undra Parker