



NEW SONG CHURCH

May 27, 2020

Dear New Song Friends,

Over the last few weeks, you've undoubtedly seen articles and online posts about everything from re-opening the economy to re-starting local businesses, schools and even churches. As we've said throughout this COVID-19 response, **the church is not closed!** We are, in fact, having to work harder than ever before on many levels. Nonetheless, COVID-19 has reminded us:

***The Church was never been about a building in the first place.***

The Church consists of the people God has called to be disciples of Jesus. Therefore, the Church belongs to Jesus alone. The Bible reminds us that nothing, not even a tiny virus, will prevail against God's greatest plans.

We have always been open: open to love God, to love others, and to serve all – open to share the Gospel and to pray over needs, near and far – that all might be active participants in the invitations of Jesus Christ.

To the Early Church, the Apostle Paul's letters were written to small gatherings, house churches, and groups who met in the corners of the Temple. For Paul, most church plants launched with no "church" to even go to!

Indeed, we're all eager to resume meeting in-person. With the goal of safety in mind, our guiding principles throughout this process have mirrored John Wesley's "Three Simple Rules:"

**Do No Harm.**

*Luke 6:31 reminds us of the Golden Rule. We intend to treat everyone with dignity, respect, and an awareness that a re-entry process can be scary and cumbersome. Working together, we aim to place the wellbeing of all God's people front and center as we work to not only return, but also to be safe, throughout.*

**Do Good.**

*We are not proceeding cautiously due to fear. Instead, as II Timothy 1:7 reminds us, it is with a "spirit of power, love and self-discipline" that we advance this cause under wise, careful, and faithful planning.*

**Stay In Love With God.**

*There are tons of passages available to reference for worship and study: we long for these opportunities!*

In the coming months, we're hopeful to begin moving towards our plans to resume in-person worship as soon as it's reasonable and wise. Out of concern for those who are most vulnerable in our community, and in consultation with our governing officials, including Virginia's Governor, our Conference's Bishop and Cabinet, and New Song's staff and leadership, we will adhere to all guidelines that govern our next steps.

As with all lists attempting to be comprehensive, it is impossible to be fully-inclusive. These types of items are being prepared and are subject to be modified as necessary or determined by leaders overseeing these efforts. We are concerned over our congregation's safety and will continue to act in responsible ways as circumstances demand.

While we expect our in-person gatherings to feel more "normal" just in reaching Phase 2, much like the rest of society, we anticipate the way we interact with one another will look very different for a while longer. Touchless worship experiences, while wearing masks, and having no coffee or childcare... hey: we admit: it has some limitations! We are doing our level best to make worship experiences as close to "home" as possible – much easier said than done!

We continue to pray for you and yours; **always know: we miss and love you guys more than you could know!**

Faithfully,  
Pastor Chad<><