



Rex Williams <bishoprexwilliams@gmail.com>

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## Welcome back!

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Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 10:56 PM

Hello friend,

It's true. We're going back to church!

As much as I'd like to think everyone is jumping for joy, I know many of you are not. And that's okay.

We've been disrupted from our normal routines and practices, and now we're disrupting our new routines.

But as we've all learned over the last few months, things are different.

I'm sure everyone would really love to go back to the way things were before the pandemic, where we could shake hands and hug and sing and not worry about a little virus.

Well, hopefully, that is a state we can get back to in our future, but before we get there, we'll have to experience something a little different as we make the transition.

So, we're going to meet in person, while following all the state rules for religious services, and keeping each other safe from the virus. But I want you to know, and the Stake Presidency wanted us to make it clear, that attendance in person is completely optional and you do not need to attend. There is no obligation. Really.

If you feel uncomfortable for whatever reason, you don't need to attend. There are many situations that families are experiencing that would cause them to feel uneasy being with people outside their home, even as much as they love their ward members :) You are totally justified in whatever reason you have for not attending.

This also means that we should not judge others for not attending, because we do not know their circumstances.

If you read the email from the Stake Presidency you'll know how it's going to work in general. We'll have a broadcast of speakers from the pulpit at 1:00pm for 30 minutes (similar to our current devotional) then we'll stop the broadcast and administer the Sacrament to those in the chapel.

Those watching from home should administer the sacrament to their families also at that time if they have the Priesthood members available to do it.

To meet the requirements for having a small congregation, we'll divide the ward up into four groups so that you get a chance to attend at least once a month. Look for a separate email identifying which group you'll be in.

On the second and fourth Sundays we'll have the youth meet for the second hour at 2:00pm for 40 minutes. Again, this is optional if they do not feel comfortable. We'll also have a live broadcast available for the youth classes for those who choose to stay home. They'll enter in the back (East) door and meet in the Relief Society and Primary rooms.

Of course, everyone will be required to wear masks, even the speakers, so we'll need to have patience with that experience. And we'll sit at a distance, separated by families. We also won't be able to congregate in the foyer or parking lot and chat, even though that's what I want to do the most. There are reasons. We want to ensure safety. This will require a generous amount of patience and charity in general.

Thank you for your understanding and willingness to try something different. We'll all be learning together.

It all happens on October 18th!  
(Well, the youth will come on the 25th.)

It is the Lord's building. The Spirit will be there.

I'm looking forward to our renewed fellowship.

I know I probably haven't covered everything, so there will probably be follow-on emails, but if you have any questions, or would like to tell me that you don't plan on attending, feel free to reply to this email. We might adjust the group sizes if we get a better idea of who is planning to attend.

And to lift your spirits, read Brother Erikson's faith promoting story recently published on our ward web site at <https://pennycreek.org>

Onward!

Bishop Williams

This Sunday will be our last devotional using this Zoom link. There will be a different link to watch the broadcast on Oct. 18th. I'll send it to you before you need it.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/965380805>

Or by telephone: 1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 965 380 805

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