



First Baptist Church Hudson

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Important Announcement

August 5, 2020

Dear Hudson First Family,

I trust that you are persevering through this strange time in which we are living. To say that we miss each other is a huge understatement. We all dream of the day that we can worship together again. It will be the next best thing to Heaven!

We have made an important decision regarding the next several weeks at Hudson First. Based on rising numbers of Covid cases in our community, on surveys that we've done with many of you regarding when you'll be ready to come back, and on the recent experiences of other churches in our area, we have made the decision to suspend our in-person worship services through September.

This was not a casual decision. Our original plan was to move to a more opened status by mid-August, but Covid cases in our community are moving in the wrong direction. Infections are predicted to peak in mid-to-late September, and we simply cannot guarantee your safety if you are here in large groups. That matters a lot to us, and that's a big part of this decision.

We are a diverse group of people, with lots of good ideas and different opinions. This news will affect each of us in different ways. For some of you this makes perfect sense; for others it is frustrating, and you may feel we are being too cautious. We understand.

In the meantime, we plan to take what we know are God's purposes for the church, plus the things we've learned over the last 5 months, and we are going to focus all our energies on creating the very best experiences and opportunities that we can so that all of us can worship God, grow spiritually, and serve to make a difference:

- We will gather online as the whole church on Sunday mornings for worship at 9am, starting this Sunday. For those of you who have been unable to connect digitally with us, we have a new way for you to "call in" and listen from your phone to the worship service, a Bible study, or any other "live event" that we have. If you're interested, call the office on Friday for more details.
- We will resume the online, live Mid-Week Bible Study on Wednesday nights.

- We are creating a lot of new online content – studies, talks, conversations, podcasts, special music, and other creative and inspiring things – that will be “on demand” for you or a group of you to join. We are resuming studies for women, men, couples, senior adults, and more.
- Our First Kids Children’s Ministry and Hudson First Students are going to continue to provide materials, gatherings, and other opportunities for our kids as well.

Be sure you know that we want you to gather. We know it is important. Whether it is in your driveways or backyards, at the park, in the church parking lot, or in one of the rooms we’ve made available at the church, we want you to gather for studies, or just to hang out, to see each other, or to have conversations. We’re going to encourage you and help you to do that. We’re just going to do it in smaller, safer ways for now. We have scheduled some events that bring us together, including some senior adult drive-in picnics, events for families with children, and some outdoor whole church gatherings that we’re calling Tailgate Worship. You’ll see the dates on those events soon.

Look also for opportunities to serve and make a difference. We are launching a new initiative called #DoGood to up our game at being the hands and feet of Jesus in the face of all the negative and bad that 2020 has given us. We will strategically “do good” in our communities where the needs are the greatest, in an effort to make Jesus known and visible at a time when people need Him most. We will introduce you to the first opportunity in the next few days.

I have great faith that we are going to continue to thrive during this difficult time, and when we return, we will return stronger and better than we were. And I have a great confidence, too, because my confidence is in you! I know this church. We’ve walked together – we’ve celebrated and cried together. Nothing can stop Jesus’ church in Hudson!

We’ll keep you updated. In the meantime, God bless you, and Press On!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR MACK". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Pastor Mack