



Ivy Memorial Baptist Church
Your family ... in Coliseum Central

June
2020



Crisis Upon Crisis: Clarity and Comfort

Crisis is not a new thing in our lives. However, multiple crises which encompass personal, family, local, national, and global arenas all at the same time is a new thing! We have never been down this particular path before. Nobody knows exactly what it is going to look like once the tsunami of crisis begins to recede.

This newsletter is intended to bring hope and encouragement by simply seeking to offer clarity wherever we might be able to find some.

Here are some things that we can count on:

Change will be the norm, not the exception. Many churches have enjoyed a long ride of not having to deal with significant change. There have certainly been tweaks and adjustments along the way, but in many cases we have been able to move along without the kind of changes that reorder our entire life. The good news amid constant change is that the Good News is constant! The more we are grounded in the Good News, the more easily we will be able to adapt to whatever changes are necessary to share in the redemptive mission of God.

{ “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” Isaiah 43:19 }

The Kingdom of God is already present but not yet consummated. We are not waiting for the Kingdom of God to arrive – it already has. We are simply waiting for the final consummation of the Kingdom. God is showing up in huge as well as small ways (actually, those small ways are huge too!) God’s Kingdom is not shaken one bit by the current crisis. In fact, the crisis becomes quite a platform to see with more clarity what God’s Kingdom is all about. We are right in the middle of a lot of Kingdom stuff and oftentimes don’t even know it. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, God is inviting us to participate in Kingdom life every single day.

{ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:15 }

The Jesus Virus (aka JV30AD) is contagious and is actually visible. Long after COVID has wreaked its havoc on us, we will still be left with a virus that was here long before COVID and will be here long after COVID. The mandate of Jesus to love one another and to make disciples is not going anywhere. For the past 2000 years the JV30AD has been transforming lives and reconciling all things back to God. With every word and deed that reflects the life of Jesus, someone is exposed to JV30AD. The more it spreads, the better the world gets. Strangely enough, those infected with JV30AD face death not as the end of life but as a whole new beginning.

That online survey we took about your re-gathering preferences. Here are the results:

Which of the following best describes your attitude toward returning to a worship service at church?

I will return the first opportunity we have	10 responses
I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns for safety.	9 responses
I will wait several additional weeks before I attend	11 responses
It may be quite a while before I return	3 responses
Not sure	4 responses

Currently Virginia requires that we wear a mask in public. How would you feel about attending and wearing a mask?

I am ready to attend in a mask	27 responses
I would rather worship "mask free" at home	8 responses
Not sure	2 responses

When we feel it is safe, which of the following would you prefer for our church?

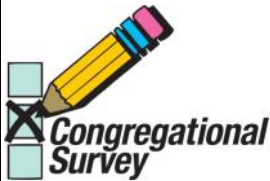
Resume in person worship services at our church immediately with online options	17 responses
Meet in smaller groups or size limited gatherings for a few more months	7 responses
Keep all activities online - only to see what happens with the virus	7 responses
Undecided	5 responses

In order to open safely, would you be willing to serve as an usher?

Yes	6 responses
No	17 responses
Maybe	14 responses

In order to open safely, would you be willing to serve on the cleaning and sanitizing team?

Yes	5 responses
No	18 responses
Maybe	14 responses



Clarifying Giving Options

Some have asked us to explain the different giving options we have, especially online giving and any fees that may be associated with your gifts. They are listed in order of least or no fees to highest fees.

- ◇ Dropping off or mailing your gift. If you desire to send cash, please put it in your giving envelope. Giving envelopes are not suitable for mailing by themselves. Please put them in another envelope to mail. **The church is charged \$0.00 to process this gift.**
- ◇ Using your online bank's bill pay system. Depending on your bank this may have a fee associated with it. **The church is charged \$0.00 to process this gift.**
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal—using your Bank Account. In the giving portal hit the second tab to switch to the bank account tab. Enter your routing and account number. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 0.65% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$99 after fees.)
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal - using a Discover, Mastercard or Visa - Credit or Debit Card. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 2.65% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$97 after fees.)
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal—using an American Express Card. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 3.5% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$96.15 after fees.)

We hope this helps you make the best choice when deciding how to give.



Reset & Regather

In facing uncertain days ahead, we look forward to the opportunity to **Reset** and **Regather**. Both of these are critical components to the way forward. It is helpful to use this moment to revisit how various entities help make it possible to move into the future.

Reset. One of the primary responsibilities of the **Leadership Team** is to help us reset. This involves looking at things in the biggest picture possible. We are constantly dealing with such questions as *Why* do we exist as a church family? *What* does tomorrow's church look like? *Where* is God leading us? *How* do we move forward as a church family? *How* do we create a culture of ministry experimentation?

Regather. Our **Ministry Leadership Team** is providing guidance on *when* and *how* to regather as a church family. Church leaders have discovered that it is much harder to reopen the church than it is to close the church. Reopening involves innumerable details that require personnel, training, planning, supplies, and must take into consideration official guidelines and recommendations as well as the welfare of our church family.

Resetting and Regathering are both critical issues, however, they are not equal issues. *Resetting* focuses on the vision and culture. It pursues both the fundamental questions of existence as well as the future questions of direction. The emphasis is on the church as a living *organism* – the incarnate body of Christ in our world. *Regathering* focuses on the *organizational* aspect of the church. It lives more deeply in the weeds and deals with the nuts and bolts of organizational and administrative life.

In many cases, churches put the church's organizational structure ahead of the organic life of the presence of Jesus. The end result is institutionalism rather than incarnation. The primary reason for placing organization above organism reflects the tendency to let the stability of structures rather than the sustaining life of the Spirit to guide the life of the church. The role of the organization is to support and encourage the organic life of Jesus in the church family. As such, the organizational structure of churches should be flexible and agile so that the church family can go wherever the wind of the Spirit blows.

Adapt and Innovate

Over the past several months churches have been forced to **adapt** in order to survive. Before COVID became the new reality, everyone already knew that the institutional church would have to adapt or die. COVID simply exposed the issue that was already present and vastly accelerated the journey into the future. It is no longer an issue of whether churches want to adapt but an issue of how churches are adapting. Primarily due to technology and those who are gifted and generous in maximizing our technological edge, we have been able to make adaptations in such areas as worship, Bible study, and a variety of other kinds of essential meetings.

The next phase will focus on **innovation**. Adaptation has allowed us to navigate the present crisis, but innovation will allow us to pursue a future. At the heart of innovation is the willingness to experiment. The western church has been able to get through a number of decades without significant experimentation. All churches are entering into a season of experimentation. This will call for use of imagination and risk taking – two things most churches are typically not good at. In moving forward, we will need to create a culture of imagination in which God can show us what we cannot see and lead us to where we would not go.

The Schedule:

(Some details may change!)

Please call the Church Office, or ask for help on the Friends & Family Facebook page if there's a problem.

Sunday	10:00am	Salvation class Sunday School on Zoom Victory class Sunday School on Zoom
	11:15am	Morning Message Live on the Facebook public page
	7:00pm	YOUTH Zoom Connection
Monday		Our Ivy Future message usually posted on You Tube
Wednesday	6:00pm	Ivy Family Discussion & Prayer on Zoom (all welcome)
	7:00pm	YOUTH Zoom Connection

Zoom gatherings are available for your group.

Call the Church Office to schedule a time.

The church has an account and we are scheduling it just like we would schedule a room at the church.



We are meeting over Zoom on Sundays and Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Bryan Gravely and China White are available for one-on-one support if needed.

Do not hesitate to call us!

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Do you have a prayer concern you need to share with us? Consider sending it to us via e-mail!

prayerline@ivymemorial.org

This e-mail address is monitored by the Church Office and one of the Deacons. It's a quick and easy way to be sure we know how and whom to pray for.

Giving Options

Visit www.ivymemorial.org to give online. You can even give via TEXT or by scanning this QR code.



Text **IVYATCC** to **73256** to give to the Unified Budget using your text messaging. *Standard text messaging rates may apply.* If you have questions call the Office at 838-3107.

Mailing your tithes and offerings is a great choice until we are able to gather in person once again. The Church Office is also open if you need to drop if off.

From the Church Office:

Your Church Office is still open

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—3:30pm

757-838-3107

ivymemorial@ivymemorial.org

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Hampton, VA 23666

www.ivymemorial.org