

What's Up Weekly 11/10/20

What's Going on at the church?

This Sunday we will be gathering again in-person, here at the church at 10:00 AM. The Swanson family from Chile will be discussing their missions work during service, and we are having special guest worship leaders Mark and Elizabeth Stamps lead us during our praise and worship time. It should be a pretty great day, you won't want to miss it!

Winter Wassail Updates:

We are still planning on hosting our Winter Wassail on Friday evening, December 4th. It will be here at the church. We encourage you to stop by, enjoy the lights, some Christmas Carols, and of course some Wassail! We are planning this event to be as safe as possible, with plenty of social distancing guidelines in place. We have removed the ticketing process, so you are welcome to arrive anytime between 4:00-9:00 PM. So if you are looking to get in the Christmas spirit, stop on by and celebrate with us!

New Staff Transition:

Our new Director of Family Ministries, Bekah, is expected to arrive in town this Friday. While she is not officially expected to start until the 22nd, you might see her around the church from this point forward, so feel free to introduce yourself if you happen to see her! We will schedule some type of an official meet and greet relatively soon as we work through COVID and Facility issues (see more on that below).

Kipp is still here in office with us as well, faithfully serving in a variety of capacities. Out there in the corporate world, it can be unusual for a person to work alongside their replacement for an extended period of time. And it might even be a little awkward or uncomfortable at times to do that even in a church environment, but I am so grateful to serve alongside faithful ministers of the gospel like Kipp and Bekah.

We have all been praying for each other, and we are all committed to as smooth a transition as possible. I can't speak highly enough of the ways that Kipp is going out of his way to ensure Bekah is able to hit the ground running as they spend a few weeks together in office. And of course I'm equally grateful that Bekah is willing to receive such a handoff. In the Kingdom of God, we are set apart to react to things differently, and this is just a prime example of that. This also shows just how much your past, present and future staff cares for all of our congregants. Don't take that level of care and commitment for granted.

Kipp is still speaking with 3-4 different churches, and he has an in-person interview at a church this weekend. So please be in prayer for their family through this transition season, and continue to pray that God opens the right doors for their family in His perfect timing.

New Church Lift:

If you've been to church since we returned to indoor services, you will have noticed that we have been a bit of a construction zone. Thankfully that all seems to be wrapping up. As a result, we have a new lift that will give everyone equal access to the office level, the auditorium level, and the fellowship hall level. As the Covid issue is dealt with in the long-term, we anticipate promoting a lot of fellowship activities in all parts of our building. It was becoming obvious that mobility issues in many of our congregants were preventing that fellowship in some instances, and that simply wasn't acceptable. I am grateful that our leadership has such an inclusive mindset, and I am grateful that we are providing more access to all of our facilities for those struggling with mobility issues.

Even though the lift is fully functional, we are not able to use it until it is inspected and certified by the state. We don't have an exact date on that yet, but please note we will let you know hopefully in the near future, when we are able to use the lift. Thank you for your patience in dealing with the giant hole in the floor these past few weeks!

What I'm looking forward to:

If you listened to this past weeks message, I promised myself not to talk about the weather in this section this week....(but seriously, haven't these 70 degree days been great!).

Many of you are aware right now that my younger sister has been in critical condition in the hospital for the last week. Sometimes that can make it hard to look forward to things, because it's easy to get caught up in letting the unknown taint the future. Like we talked about on Sunday though, our biblical, Elpis hope is a supernatural hope given by Jesus. And that hope allows us to "anticipate with pleasure."

So I'm refusing to "anticipate with displeasure," and I'm going to choose hope anyway. So I'm still going to look forward to Christmas season, I'm still going to look forward to the winter wassail. I'm even choosing to find the silver lining. Krista and I weren't planning on going home for Thanksgiving this year, but we definitely will be now.

So I'm looking forward to the holiday's, and I'm still hopeful because no matter what happens with my sister, I choose to trust Jesus because His way is better, even when we don't see it yet.