

The elders have made the decision to bring the congregation back into a single worship service. This is different than what we have been experiencing since early June. To this point, our congregation is divided into two groups. This limits the number of people in the building at one time and allows social distancing. Though we gain something in the divided services we are also losing something. No matter which service you attend, you are still worshipping God in spirit and truth. We are all exploring the same material in the sermons. However, half the congregation is missing. Friends are missing. We aren't seeing half of our family. They're worshipping too; they're just not here when you are.

The elders know that this can only be a temporary arrangement. God never meant for His people to be divided and alone. His plan is for togetherness. After all, the church is a "called out assembly." We aren't the church unless we are an assembling people. Paul told the Christians in Corinth, "when you come together to eat, wait for one another" (1 Cor. 11:33). He was referring to the Lord's Supper but the rebuke was for their habit of dividing the assembly. From this we can draw the principle that God wants the whole church together. Temporary setbacks are expected and allowable. Our God is patient and merciful. But we entered this knowing these split services were going to end. Looking at our numbers over the last few weeks and the space in the auditorium, the elders feel we can move to one service. Praise God!

This does not mean that we are throwing caution to the wind. This does not mean we are going to be careless with our health. There is a balance the elders are seeking between the physical and the spiritual and they need our help with that. Here are two things they need from us:

1. First and foremost we need to be praying. Pray for the elders as they lead us (1 Thess. 5:12-13). Pray that God will watch over and protect us, spiritually and physically. Pray that our faith and trust in God will grow through these unique times.

2. Let us honor what the elders have been asking of us physically. Prior to our meetings in June, the elders published a letter outlining a path for safely reassembling during the Coronavirus. As much as we want to hug and touch each other, our effort toward a single service can only work if we honor distancing-standards. This is obviously not what we want as many of us are dying for a handshake and a hug. But distance between people is the only way we will be able to come back to a single service—at least until things change in a more positive direction. Please refer back to the letter or ask for another copy to review the additional recommendations.

There is a lot being debated over the virus and that means many voices and many opinions. The eldership is doing the best it can to lead us through these uncharted waters. Their burden is unimaginable. What is not debatable is our need for each other. We need to assemble. Let us pray for wisdom and safety as we move forward.

NORTH HAMILTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



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July 12, 2020

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Deacons

Joe Anderson	Keith Herron
Brad Jones	Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph	Curt Stewart
Justin Tripp	Toby Ward

**“Getting Ready for July 19th”
David B. Smith**

I am even more excited for July 19th than I was for the 4th of July. Now that is saying something if you know me well. I am an extremely patriotic person. I love America. I don't worship America but I do love America. For all of the things that we do (and have done) wrong, it is still the greatest country in the world. I honestly cannot name another place I would want to live and raise my family. So when the fourth day of July rolls around each year, my family gets excited. But this year the 4th of July pales in comparison to what is about to happen on July 19th. Do you know what happens on that day? Here's a hint: the 19th is a Sunday. Still don't know? On July 19th we will come together collectively as a congregation!

Prayer List

James Anderson	Danny Curvin	Judy Lusk
Patricia Anthony	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Jim Bethune	Bill Greer	Lexi Owens
Nancy Birch	Fred Hafley	Carlos Shannon
Mike Bouldin	Kathy Hamilton	Janice Smith
Susie Hargis	Bessie Smithson	Isaac Cooper
Grayson Ledbetter	Diane Stacy	Loretta Leffew
John Webster		

Announcements

- **David's Article:** Please read David's article closely as he discusses plans for our congregation services. It is especially important that we pay particular attention to the item two which deals with social distancing and physical contact. More will be mentioned during announcements and telephone calls during the week. The elders so wish for a successful gathering, and it is up to all of us to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and contribute to the success of our services.
- **Wednesday Evenings:** This is just a reminder that David is on YouTube and Facebook each Wednesday evening at six with a weekly lesson on the nature of God.
- **Reminders:** Our online worship service is still being posted to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning and, for those who wish to do so, contributions can still be made using Venmo: NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist or can be mailed to P O Box 517, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384

Our Sick and Recovering

- **Carolyn Lasater** was pleased on Monday when she entered Parkridge Hospital to have two stents inserted to correct two blockages. However, the physician then determined that stents were not needed that blockages could be corrected by other means.
- **Jimmie Ruth Wilson** had to go to the emergency room on Thursday with what was diagnosed to be cellulitis in her leg. We pray that the medication prescribed will be enough to prevent the need for further treatment.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

The calendar for August is on the table in the foyer. Please check that your family's August birthdays and anniversaries are correct and included.

Birthdays

12 – Darlene Doak
16 – David Smith
17 – Alisha Lowman, Curt Stewart, George Bell
18 – Doug Rector
19 – Phyllis Wells, Savannah Qualls, Bobby Haynes
20 – Bob Newsom
21 – Norma Griffith
28 – Debbie Cooper
30 – David Walker
31 – Marilyn Everett

Anniversaries

12 – Millis & Shirley Jackson
17 – John & Judy Germ
26 – Doug & Sue Wright, Joe & Erica Anderson
28 – Kenny & Cindy Rose