

**July 6, 2020**

**Dear Church Family:**

**Last Sunday, July 5, was our second Sunday together for worship. Seventy-five people were present, including three guests.**

**We have been careful to follow recommended health and safety guidelines. Temperature is taken at the doors with infrared thermometers. Hand sanitizer is provided. Everyone wears masks. Proper social distancing is maintained. As our numbers increase, we will open the balcony and then direct the overflow crowd to Fellowship Hall where the service will be projected on the big screen.**

**Offering plates are placed in the vestibule instead of being passed row by row during the service. Our Deacon of the week leads the offertory prayer at the end of the service. It serves also as our benediction. Last Sunday's budget offering totaled \$12,561. Thank you for your generous, faithful giving.**

**I hope many of you will attend the Prayer/Business Meeting at 6 PM on Wednesday, July 15. Major business items will be the Finance Reports (March-June) and a discussion and vote on the proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws. Lloyd Thrash, Chair of the Study Committee, will lead the discussion.**

**My sermon for next Sunday, July 12, focuses on the question, "What is the gospel?" It will be an effort to convey the essence of Paul's marvelous Letter to the Romans. The starting point is Romans 1:16-17, a text that influenced the conversion of Martin Luther.**

**What is the gospel? What is its content? The gospel offers something great about the character of God: He is righteous. It reveals something tragic about the human condition: We are all sinners. It conveys something wonderful Christ has done: He came to save sinners. It encourages something challenging about Christian living: We are to serve Christ with our whole being in every area of our lives.**

**My wife, Jackie, has some underlying health issues and does not yet feel comfortable with worship attendance. Last Sunday she followed the livestream of our service on You Tube. She was thankful to be able to worship at the same time others were gathered in our Sanctuary. Instructions for accessing the service either live or recorded were made available on the back of last week's letter.**

**We have returned again and again to a precious promise as our memory verse during this COVID-19 pandemic. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Let us continue to pray for one another and encourage one another.**

**Your Pastor,**

**Jon M. Stubblefield**