June 7, 2020

To: All the Members of the Mount Paran Family
From: Pastor Ed

Greeting in The Name of Jesus!

In my May 16th letter to the congregation I notified you of your officer’s decision to look at the possibility of resuming in person worship when Baltimore County enters Phase 2.

Your Pastors, Elders, and Deacons met by Zoom Saturday June 6 to discuss when and what steps need to be taken before re-opening our church. After discussing our options of indoor and outdoor worship along with the advice of our own medical experts we unanimously agreed that it would not be in the best interest of our church to resume in person worship at this time.

Under Phase 2 churches buildings are limited to 50% capacity and are required to maintain social distancing. That means that our Fellowship Hall could only accommodate 30 worshippers at this time. The building would also need to be sanitized after each use. Indoor worship with these restrictions is not a feasible option.

Outdoor in person worship also presents some challenges. Handshakes and hugs would be discouraged. Social distancing, face coverings would also be necessary. The video broadcasts have been a tremendous success in keeping our church family connected and have reached a number of people outside of our congregation. Your officers concluded that the benefits of outdoor worship did not outweighed the health risk involved.

The bottom line is this. **We will not reopen the church at this time.** Your officers will continue to monitor the situation and we will resume in person worship as soon as we feel comfortable doing so. This was a
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hard decision because we all look forward to the day when we can meet in person. We all miss the fellowship and hugs. But our major concern is for the health and welfare of every member of our church family. We will continue to broadcast our worship services on the church website, Facebook, Vimeo, and YouTube.

Your Deacons have approved the purchase of sanitizing equipment and supplies. Orders have already been placed for scare equipment and supplies. Also some of our medical professionals will begin developing protocols for indoor worship and sanitizing the building so we will be ready to resume indoor worship as soon as that decision is made.

In addition, we have the capability of having Bible Discussion, SMORES, Confirmation Classes, Ministry Meetings, Shepherd List gatherings, French Classes, CWF & CMF meetings via Zoom. Pastor Anita has agreed to help the leaders of any of these groups set up their Zoom Meetings.

Mt Paran can now accept donations via electronic giving. We started electric giving to make it more convenient for you to send your tithes and offerings to the church. Go to your bank’s web site and click on the “Zelle” app. Send your donation to “yourmtparan@gmail.com As always you can mail checks to the church mailbox. [P.O. Box 415; Randallstown, MD 21133]

As you know this past week our country has been rocked with demonstrations, violence, and looting. There is a lack of trust, respect, and justice throughout our nation. As Christian we know that real peace only comes from Jesus The Prince of Peace. So, I am asking that each of us to pray for peace in our country and to pray that The Lord will use us to be instruments of His peace. We all need to get serious about telling the unsaved people God has put in our life about the love of God and the forgiveness that is available in Jesus Christ. 2nd Chronical 7:14 is clear it is up to God’s people if we want God to heal our land. It is up to us as Christians to demonstrate love, forgiveness, and respect to all the people around us.
I also challenge all of us to pray for each other and to keep in contact with each other. If you or you know of someone who needs some financial help because of COVID-19 please call one of your Pastors, Elders or Deacons. We are a family and families come along side of and help each other in times of need.

May the peace of Christ be with each of you,

*Pastor Ed*