



SOUTHSIDE

MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER

6.3.20

Welcome to Southside – Barrett

We are very excited to begin meeting at the building again this upcoming Sunday. The last time we met at the building was on March 8. So much has happened since then. In some ways the time has gone by quickly and in other ways it feels more like 3 years than 3 months. It has been an interesting time to say the least and I am thrilled to be able to once again gather at our church building even if it is only just a small number of us.

Due to size limitations, attendance is by invitation only during this first phase. The invitation list for the first two Sundays is in the box on the top left of this page. We are asking your life group leader to let us know who from your group will be coming by noon on the Thursday before you are attend. So if you have not already done so, then please reach out to your life group leader and let them know you are going to come. If you are a member who is not in a life group and plan to attend on the day you have been invited, then please email me at barrettcoffman@gmail.com and let me know you are coming. We will have reserved seating and there will be an usher to guide you to your seat so it is important for you to let us know you are coming. Also, please feel free to invite guests to come with you. Again, just let us know who will be joining you. As we proceed, our hope is to expand the number of people we are able to invite each week.

The sign on this page is posted in the front lobby at the building and we encourage everyone who comes to observe the guidelines listed on the sign. In addition to the guidelines on the sign, I want to mention that the restrooms in the front lobby will be open, but restricted to one adult at a time. Also, the nursery room is available, but not staffed. Lastly, I want you to be aware of the entering and exiting practices we are asking everyone to follow. The new Gathering Space is closed, so we are asking everyone to enter at the front of the building. Following the conclusion of the live stream, we are asking everyone to move outside into the parking lot if you choose to visit.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about our meeting again at the building. I look forward to seeing you soon.

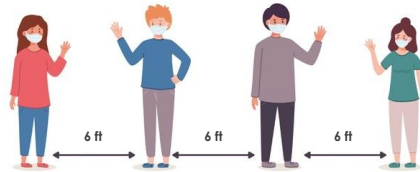
June 7: Goan and Dyer life groups;
also those not in a life group whose
last names begin with A-C.

June 14: Matar life group;
also those not in a life group whose
last names begin with D-F.

Welcome to Southside

We are very glad to be with you.
We ask that you please observe the following guidelines
during your time with us:

- Do not come in if you have a temperature above 100.5° or feel unwell.
- Observe social distancing between individuals/family units.



- Individuals 6 years of age and over must wear a mask at all times. We have one for you, if needed.
- Wait for our ushers to guide you to your seat.



- Contact the church office immediately if at any time, you discover you are infected.



A Question to Consider – Kevin

I have a question for you which I will get to very quickly. It's a question I hope you spend some intentional time considering. At our staff meeting today we talked for a long time about racism. We are all heartbroken by the events in the news lately and we hurt with and for the families who have suffered loss. Don't ever lose sight of this reality. Someday there will be no racism. In God's Kingdom we will all be one in Christ.

I suppose we could list many different reasons to answer the question, "Why racism?" Not a single reason we list will hold up under the weight of Kingdom ethics and values. Here is one reason I want to mention which definitely shrivels when Kingdom values are applied. Someone with a different skin color than mine is inferior to me. Being white to some people is a reason to believe they are better than someone who wasn't born with white skin. Something in our fallen nature precipitates this decision toward superiority.

I read this line today: Racism would be the very first thing to start happening in a culture absent of God. Why is that? Because at the heart of God's gospel lies an indisputable truth. We are all broken, every one of us, and we need a Savior. If God doesn't rescue us from ourselves, we will never experience wholeness and we will create counterfeit avenues to support a false image of ourselves. If God does rescue us, it is solely because of his mercy. I have no justifiable reason to believe I'm better than anyone. We are all born in the same condition – we need a Savior. Fundamentally, nothing about us is more basic nor more urgent than that fact. I would surmise most everyone who reads this right now, you would not consider yourself a racist. So let me change the question. Who do you think you're better than?

A Shepherd's Prayer – Tony

One of the words we're hearing a lot of right now is "normal" -- as in, "When are we getting back to normal?" and "What is the new normal going to look like?" As businesses reopen and more activities resume, some people's lives might return to much like they were before the pandemic began. For many people, there will be a new normal that is significantly different from our lives prior to Covid-19. Regardless of our life situation, I doubt that any of us will ever be the same. I've learned a lot about myself the last two months -- especially areas that God has shown me I need to grow. That leads me to the questions that all of us can benefit from asking --

"What have I learned about myself? What is God trying to teach me?"

I do not want to be like the person of James 1:22-24, which reads, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

Prayer: "Father, thank you for what you are teaching us during this pandemic. Please help us not to be like the person in James 1:22-24, but with praise and thanksgiving, grow in our relationship with you. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen!"