



Valley Covenant *News*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JULY 2020

From Pastor Rick

Friends,

The pandemic did this one good thing: It took us a while to learn how to prepare a video worship experience back in March, but after a while we got pretty good at it! After 13 weeks, I was really feeling proud of what we were presenting, and grateful that people in multiple states and even overseas were receiving a blessing from what we had prepared. I have also learned that some people locally were tuning in to watch the videos we'd prepared, and even said to friends whom they knew attended Valley Covenant, "When your church resumes Sunday morning worship, let me know, I'd like to attend".

Now that we've made the jump back into gathered worship, we are experiencing a learning curve as well. That learning curve includes learning to feel comfortable in smaller groups for worship (we had 23 people at one service and fewer at the other), honoring and respecting one another's' preferences for distancing, masking, and so on).

We are also learning that when recording worship on Sunday morning, it's harder to get the video uploaded in a timely way. I apologize for the late posting of our worship online, but it is now available at our church website, valleycov.org

We are putting new resources and disciplines in place that will empower us to upload in a much more timely fashion.

If you missed being with us on Sunday, be assured: we missed you as well! I know that several people did not attend because they were not feeling well and did not want to expose others to whatever they might be carrying; others are aware that for reasons of risk, they are sensing their own vulnerability and think it wise to wait a little longer. Still others were out of town or spending time with Family on Father's Day, or anticipated that they would be travelling to see parents in the near future and wanted to make sure they did not inadvertently carry any infection to at-risk loved ones.

It is our joy to provide you with experiences that can enrich your experience of God's wonderful grace for each of us. We hope we'll see you on Sunday morning soon; in the meantime, may God's richest blessings be yours, and remember to watch for our video worship experiences, which we hope will post on Sunday afternoons.

Action Teams

Dear Church Family,

As you may recall, we began The Vitality Team process as a Church in January 2019. Our Church has put forth a total effort into this including the Epic Workshop, the Pulse Survey and our Service of Consecration. Now we are Ready to move the Vitality Process into the next phase of **establishing Action Teams** to begin the hard work of trying to achieve the items we discovered as a Church during this vitality process.

Communications Team

Chairperson: Cathy Huber

Ed Clift

Pastor Rick Lindholtz

Caitlin Pierson

Ann Ganong

Bill Raymond- Council Vitality Representative

Master Long Term Facilities Planning Team (6/20-6/21)

Chairperson: Dwight Bond

Bill Raymond- Council Vitality Representative

Roger Carlson

Harry McWherter

Jim Trier

Pastor Rick Lindholtz

Mary Lyon

Gary Pals

Ryan Snodgrass

Relationships within & outside our Church Family Team:

A. Group to establish 7 events each year for our Church Family Team:

Chairperson: Pastor Chuck Potts

Ed Clift

Gary Pals

Bill Raymond- Council Vitality Representative

B. Participate in 3 community events team:

Chairperson: Tammy Pierson

Elizabeth Oltmanns

Bill Raymond- Council Vitality Representative

Sunday Services & Family/ Children (Growing Young) Team:

Chairperson: Jeff Huber

Pastor Rick Lindholtz

Yvonne Raymond

Beth Clift

Susan Sutliff

Tammy Pierson- Bread of Life

Pastor Chuck Potts

Jill Huber- Preschool

Stephanie Bond

Scott Ganong

Brent Pierson- Church Council

Judy Jolly

Angie Snodgrass

Bill Raymond- Council Vitality Representative

Our Church Council is working hard to have success with these Action Teams and now we have the Teams established so they can begin their respective work. If you have any thoughts or ideas you wish to share for any of these action teams, please contact the respective team chairperson. God's Blessings to all.

In Christ,

Ryan Snodgrass

Church Council Chairperson

The Facilities Planning Team

This team of church members is charged with creating a clear vision plan for how Valley Covenant will make healthy use of the four properties we own. The four properties are the church building itself and the three houses immediately to our south: the parsonage where pastor Chuck and family live (115 S Maple); and the two houses (127 and 135) which are currently leased to three households, including Brent and Caitlin Pierson.

Valley Covenant does not have an immediate, pressing need for changes in how we utilize our available space to serve our communities, or a specific plan for how we might develop our block in the future. We plan to make recommendations to the Council and Church on next steps. What we do have is a common vision and desire to see our church grow in our capacity to love and serve those around us for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. Our prayer is that God will continue to grow our hearts and our reach, and that we will see expansion of needs and opportunities in the years ahead of us.

At our first meeting, the committee reviewed the property descriptions of the three lots south of the church, including setbacks and other restrictions, and a sense of what might be possible. We also had a wide ranging conversation about every option for short, midrange, and long term vision. Such visions might include ministry use of any of these properties, as well as possible new construction in the mid to long range future.

Our committee welcomes your input. If you have questions or visionary suggestions, please contact Dwight Bond, Committee Chair, at dwight.bond@mortonbuildings.com.