

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES...

Five Reasons Church Members Are Disagreeing about When to Regather.

I received this email last Monday from *Church Answers*, a resource for church leaders. Thom Rainer, former president of LifeWay, wrote the article. I believe it gives us a healthy perspective on Regathering for worship. We are hearing from pastors and other church leaders about members who have divergent opinions on the timing for regathering the in-person services. It might be helpful, however, to understand the reasons behind the disagreements.

We see five major themes:

****Strong extroverts and strong introverts will have major disagreements on timing.** The reason is obvious. The extrovert is dying to resume interaction with fellow church members. He or she thrives on in-person gatherings and conversations. The strong introvert, however, has done well seeing few people and interacting with few people during the quarantine.

****Different church members have different sources of authority on the coronavirus.** Some of it could be related to political leanings. For others, it could be connected to the type of news that comes through social media. For some, they listen to certain friends and family. In case you haven't noticed, there are a lot of different opinions out there.

****Age and health can be factors of divergent opinions.** Two of the common themes about COVID-19 have been the vulnerability of the older population and those with underlying conditions. It would not be unexpected for those two groups to be more likely to prefer a later opening than an earlier opening.

****Parents with children may decide to wait.** Some churches will not segregate the children from the adult worship services at the onset of the regathering. Some parents will be hesitant to bring the children to worship services for health reasons and for fear of disruption.

****Attitudes toward change affect opinions about regathering.** For example, if a change resistant church member learns that the church must have additional services for social distancing, he or she may prefer to wait until the church can return to "normal." Change-receptive church members, however, are often eager to try new services and new ideas. They will be ready to return and experiment with the new approaches.

(Continued next column)

FINANCIAL NEWS

Sunday Receipts (5-24-20)	\$	8,052.00
Year to Date Requirements	\$	301,922.25
Year to Date Receipts	\$	304,777.71



PRAYING FOR OUR DEACON FAMILIES

Jeb & Dana Fisher, Isaac and Leila
Jerry Fleming
Derrall & Christy Foster, Paxton and Aliza Blake
Chris & Summer Fudge, Addi
Larry & Letha Gambrell
Leslie Gambrell
Michael & Polly Gilreath, Will, Blake and Julia
Ron & JoAnne Gilreath
Joe & Whitney Gleaves, Lola
Frank & Mandy Gravina, Maegan and Haley
Audie & Jane Green, Austin and Carson
Elfriede Greer & Clift Bright
Melissa Greer
Jimmy Ouzts – Deacon



(Continued)

At FBC Belton, we will take the path we believe is best for our church and for the health of those who will attend. We will listen to voices of wisdom and pray that God will honor our decision to be responsible and considerate as we seek to protect everyone involved. It is our hope to announce a date to Regather for worship soon.

Your pastor and friend,

T. Dale Lynch

♪ MUSIC IN MINISTRY ♪

Whenever things in life are uncertain, we sometimes are driven by our emotions instead of our faith. The Sanctuary Choir has sung this anthem many times, and I believe the words can really speak to us today.

“On the Rock I Stand”

By Randy Vader and Jay Rouse

*Through the storms of life, through the doubt and the fear;
When the way seems dark, when no one seems to hear;
I can call on Him, I can trust in His plan
For on Christ the solid Rock I will stand.*

***On Christ the solid Rock I will stand,
I'll not build my life on sinking sand.
The foundation sure, held in place by His hand,
On Christ the solid Rock I will stand.***

*I'll not depend on my thoughts, not the way that I feel;
I'll trust in His Word, in the things that are real.
With His Word I will live for Him, follow what He has planned,
For on Christ the solid Rock I will stand.*

***On Christ the solid Rock I will stand,
I'll not build my life on sinking sand.
The foundation sure, held in place by His hand,
On Christ the solid Rock I will stand.***

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
The foundation sure, held in place by His hand,
On Christ the solid Rock I will stand. I will stand.
Yes, on Christ the solid Rock I will stand!
I will stand!*



SYMPATHY

First Baptist Church family expresses love and sympathy to Cheryl Thomas in the loss of her brother, Johnny Ray Campbell.

