



Dear Church Family,

What is a church? Do any of us think about this often enough in what might be considered “normal” times? At Connect Christian Church, our Mission over the last several years has been to “Connect People to Christ and Each Other”. That seems like an obvious mission for the church and is a natural outgrowth of the greatest two commandments that Jesus talks about in Matthew 22:37-40.

Perhaps it is at times like these, however, that we learn more about what the “church” truly is and what it really means to be “on mission” in our walk. We are learning how to connect in very different ways these days! Whether it be working from home, distance learning, virtual meetings, or online worship, how we connect to each other today has vastly changed from just a few weeks ago! Many of us wonder when this temporary disruption will be over. Many of us wonder what the “new normal” may look like. Many of us wonder what may never be the same.

In this time of uncertainty, the elders of Connect Christian church want to remind you of several biblical truths that never, ever change:

- God is now and will forever be on the throne.
- God is forever faithful.
- God’s promises are true for eternity.
- Jesus’ sacrifice for all mankind is an invitation to redemption that transcends any time and any trouble in this world.
- Every one of us is loved by our Creator for all eternity.
- There is nothing in the past, the present or the future that God cannot work “together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose”.

We are praying for this church family, for our community, for our nation and for the world during this pandemic. But we are continuing to praise our God and our Savior through this storm. We are thanking Him for His amazing grace, for His steadfast love, for His eternal faithfulness and for His unbroken promises. We are thanking Him for the committed staff at Connect, who are working diligently to provide you with online resources for worship, family ministry and connectivity during this crazy time. We are thanking Him for our deacons, our small group leaders, our ministry leaders and all the volunteers who continue to find ways to nurture relationships during this disruption. We are thanking Him for unique windows of opportunity that appear during unique times ... opportunities to reach people in different ways and, perhaps, to reach people we may not have had the opportunity to connect with during more normal times. We are thanking Him for minds and hearts that may be open to the message of salvation more now than in the past. And we are thanking Him for YOU ... each and every member of the Connect family!



You see, at times like this, perhaps we see more clearly the answer to the question “What is a church?” Jesus did not need a building to reach a lost and dying world ... He simply needed a loving heart, open arms and a message of hope. Isn’t that what He asks of us as well? As disciples, when we speak of following Jesus, isn’t it His teaching and His actions we are really trying to model? None of us needs a church building to love and care for our families. We don’t need a church building to open our arms and serve our neighbors. We don’t need a church building to bring a word of encouragement and hope to someone who can use it.

So today, we just want to remind you of one of the simplest answers to the question “What is a church?” IT IS US!! It is YOU and ME who, by God’s saving grace earned only by the sacrifice of Jesus, have the gift of the Holy Spirit we can share in small and in big ways every moment of every day. We stand in awe of the cumulative power of every little thing that each of you does to share the love of Jesus. Yes, at Connect, we are blessed with a great facility to help us worship together, learn together, serve together and fellowship together. But what we are truly blessed with is YOU!

YOU ARE CONNECT CHRISTIAN CHURCH! We love you and we thank God for the opportunity to serve with you.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay “on mission” for Christ!

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