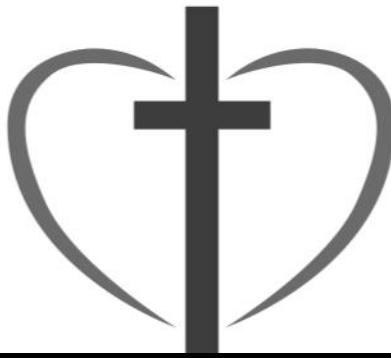


Temple Baptist Church



August 2020

Wade Allen

Lead Pastor

Derrick Bremer

Pastor of Student Ministries

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



John O'Connor, Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello Church Family, I hope that you are well and staying healthy. Teachers and Students are about to “go” back to school and summer is winding down with fall around the corner, it’s hard to believe that it is already August!

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Your church staff misses seeing you and prays for you often. We haven’t had a “Normal” church service since March. As we look to what the new “Normal” is and how we move forward, we are trying take into consideration all options to bring connectedness to our church family without exposing anyone to COVID-19 or any other illness.

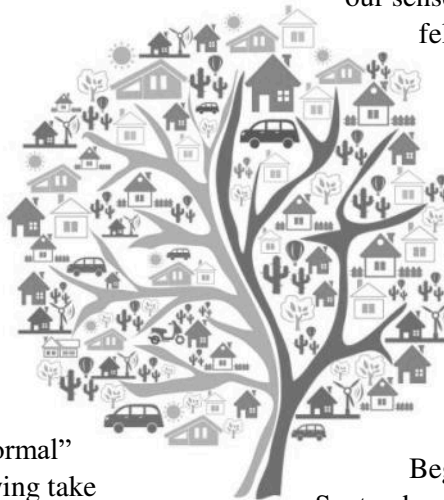
One of the things we would like to try this coming month is having weekly Community Groups meeting in homes.

Let me first say that Community Groups are not taking the place of Sunday School. We are committed to Sunday School and opening that back up appropriately. With Community Groups, we can limit the amount of people who are in a group, lessening the opportunity of exposure, but also fulfilling the desire for fellowship.

This time of fellowship will help increase our sense of community among our fellow church members in order to love and support one another. The community group is also there to help you and others in the group dive deeper into the sermon text/topic, ask questions, and draw attention to what the Bible is saying.

Beginning in the middle of September, we will be studying the book of Philippians—“Separate but Connected”—on Sunday mornings. Philippians is one of the letters that Paul wrote while in prison. So we will be viewing this from the point of view of

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(Continued from page 1 - John O'Connor)

someone who is incarcerated, trapped, separate from the ones he loves but still wants to reach out, love, and encourage them. I think that is something we all can relate to in this time. How do we stay connected, in this time of distance?

All Community Groups will be studying the same topic each week. So if one of the groups fills up, the same topics will be discussed in the other groups.



community groups

Our goal is to have these groups meet on different days of the week, to be flexible for the needs of different schedules.

We hope everyone will join a community group, but please do not feel pressured to attend one of these groups if you do not feel comfortable. Also, we ask all that do participate to exhibit caution and consideration for those in your group. If you feel like you might have been exposed, don't go to your Community Group.

With that being said, we want to encourage you to consider joining a Community Group. This type of time together is what we as a church family need right now.

We love and miss you church family, and we are looking forward to what God has in store for us. Please reach out to myself or Wade if you have any questions or concerns. Know that we are praying for each of you!

Senior Adult Ministry

Ron Fields, Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

With grand kids living nearly 1000 miles away, Norma and I have always taken every opportunity to travel to see them. The current Covid-19/Coronavirus pandemic has limited our plans. We recently planned a trip see Ronda and Caleigh and to meet Todd, Renee, Maggie and Mollie while there.

While anticipating the trip new restrictions have surfaced. Though we live in an area where we can take care of our daily affairs without fear, our trip would take us into metropolitan areas near those recently experiencing rioting and destruction.

Reasoning, logic, and common sense would say "don't go!" But there is a strong desire to see loved ones face to face.

In John chapter 11, Jesus determined to go to the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. His friend Lazarus had died. His disciples warned Him not to go. Seeing His determination, Thomas reluctantly said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (verse 16).

May we live without fear, as active a life as possible, without endangering the lives of others. (Read Psalm 42:1-2)

A graphic with a dark gray background. At the top, the words "THE NEW" are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a stylized black coronavirus icon with white spikes is centered. Underneath the icon, the words "COVID - 19 PANDEMIC" are written in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, the word "NORMAL" is written in the largest, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Another stylized black coronavirus icon is centered below the word "NORMAL".



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Pastor Wade Allen

Here are the answers to some of the questions you might have in regard to Community Groups.

Why are we starting community groups?

What's the big deal about being a part of a community group?

- Churches across America are losing more people out the “back door” than there are coming through the “front door.” In other words, people join churches because of the worship, preaching or ministries to students; but they leave churches because they often fail to find a place of belonging.
- Since community groups meet in people’s homes, they encourage openness and honesty—transparent conversations and accountability. They also have the ability to increase the level of spiritual disciplines in the lives of the group members.

Will these Community Groups replace our Sunday school ministry?

- No, Community Groups will NOT replace Sunday school.
- Even though we are not currently able to meet for Sunday school because of health concerns, we do have plans to resume classes when we it is safe.
- One hesitation is the uncertainty of what is going to happen with the number of new cases once students return to in-class instruction in public schools.

What will each Community Group study?

Are there different study options available?

- All of the groups will be studying the same thing each week. The weekly, Bible study will be based on the Sunday morning message. It will either dive a little deeper into the passage that the sermon was

based on or it may explore a different passage that covers the topic from a different point of view.

- Some advantages of using sermon-based studies include: increased attentiveness, increased note-taking, spirited discussions and singular church-wide focus.

Will groups meet on Sundays and/or various times during the week?

- The meeting time for each Community Group will be determined by the host family.
- Since each meeting will potentially meet at different times, families will be able to choose a time that works best for them.

How will we determine who is in each group?

- There will be sign-up lists for each group that will be available in the weeks leading up to the start of the fall semester.
- Each family/individual will be able to choose whichever group fits them best. They may choose based on geographical location or the schedule of that group.
- There is a limited number of slots available in each group. Sign-up is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Who is able to participate in Community Groups? Are children/students welcome?

- All family members are welcome to attend.
- It is amazing to see how insightful our children and students can be in a Bible study setting.

(Continued in FAQs on page 4)



BREMER FAMILY, YOU WILL BE MISSED!

This past Sunday, August 9th, Bro. Derrick Bremer announced his resignation as our Pastor of Student Ministries. In his resignation, he said, “Even though it doesn’t make sense... even though it doesn’t seem timely, through prayer, careful consideration and ultimately surrender, God has led Michelle and I to believe that we are being called away from the ministry here at Temple. I don’t know exactly what that means or what the future holds, but I know that God is at work... and He has it all figured out.”

Please pray for Derrick, Michelle, Charlotte and baby #2 (Charley) as they seek God’s will for ministry.

(Continued FAQs from page 3)

Is the goal for each community group to grow numerically and multiply?

- No. The goal for each group is to grow spiritually and relationally with one another.
- Once a group is full, no other people will be added. This will ensure the health and well-being of members. There will be another opportunity to join a group the next quarter/semester.
- This will be reevaluated once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

When will Community Groups start? What is the schedule for this fall semester?

- The first Community Group meetings will begin the week of September 13th.
- The Community Groups will meet every week (except for the week of Thanksgiving) until the week beginning December 6th.
- The next session for Community Groups will begin sometime after the first of the year—January 2021.



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