



Dear Bent Tree Family,

You are an incredible church. During these uncertain times, we have been so encouraged by your generosity, dedication to one another, and love of our community. Although we haven't been meeting in person for Sunday worship, the Church has not stopped gathering. Lifegroups are meeting virtually (or outside while social distancing), new groups have been created, and needs of the community are being met by God's people. And yet, I know many of you, like me, desperately miss singing together, praying together hand-in-hand, and high-fiving our awesome greeters. I'm confident we will be back together soon, but not yet.

We have been closely monitoring the recent spike in COVID cases in the DFW area. After prayerfully examining hospitalizations, infection rates, and the Governor's pause of the Reopening Texas Plan and after extensive conversations amongst our leadership and the leadership of similar churches, we have decided to postpone our planned regathering on Sunday, July 12.

We are now targeting **August 16** as our first regathering date. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and will communicate further details in the coming weeks.

I know this comes as a disappointment to many of you. I understand completely. We as an elder team highly value the gathering of God's people and are determined to put plans in place to get back together as the Spirit leads. Although the situation seems fluid, we can count on several truths: I Corinthians 2:16 says we have the mind of Christ—we trust He will lead us in wisdom as we rely on Him. Luke 4:40 reminds us that Jesus laid hands on all the sick who were brought before Him and healed them—we trust Him as our capable and complete Healer. Hebrews 10:25 commands us to not neglect meeting together. And throughout his ministry, Jesus instructs us to love one another.

We are prayerfully considering how and when we can gather in a way that is loving towards one another, loving towards our community, and honoring to our Lord Jesus. We are praying for and with you. Remember that Jesus calls the Church his bride. He loves her—us—more than we can possibly imagine.

Matt Scott
On behalf of the Bent Tree Board of Elders