

Hi everyone,

As you may have noticed (I hope you noticed!), I did not send out a church newsletter/reflection or an audio devotional service this past Sunday. I had hoped to do it, but, quite honestly, I was just too tired.

I have sent out 49 Keeping in (Virtual) Touch missives, one a week, over the past year. I don't know if "49" bothers you, but since I am a little OCD, it bothers me. I also have a reflection that I have been working on in my mind since the beginning of the pandemic. So, I am hoping to send out #50 sometime soon.

Now that we will be meeting for Sunday morning worship in person—beginning this coming Sunday—I will no longer be recording an audio devotional service from my home. We are returning to our pre-pandemic pattern of posting the weekly scripture & sermon on our website both in written and audio form. I'm sorry that they can't be posted immediately every Sunday, but at least they will be available as soon as we can make it happen.

Right now, I am planning to put together a church newsletter separate from anything else. We need to keep in touch with each other. We need to know what's happening in our church (especially when we have potluck suppers!). We need to know when our brothers and sisters are struggling and in need of prayer or more material assistance. We also want to celebrate with you when things go well. I was thinking that this might be sent out by email monthly or perhaps every-other-week. I would also like to continue to raise social/political concerns in this missive—sort of a "Being the Church in the World" section; several of you have told me that you liked this section of the past 49 Keeping in (Virtual) Touch missives.

I welcome your feedback as we move into this post-pandemic period. What do you need? What would be helpful to you? What could we do differently? For example, if we were to have a Zoom study group in addition to our in-person Sunday morning Bible Study and our Tuesday afternoon Spiritual Study and Growth Group, would you want to attend? If so, what days/times are good and not good for you? I have some good ideas about books we can read (and yes, I do get to pick!). Please contact me directly with your suggestions/feedback.

I feel really good about our reopening this coming Sunday! We are continuing to move forward with an abundance of care and caution, a step or two behind our state guidelines—but pretty much in line with a lot of other churches. I have no regrets about the way we handled the pandemic as a church. But now it's time to move forward!

I hope to see all of you on Sunday(s)!

Pastor Paul