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June 12, 2020

Dear Cambria Baptist Family,

Over the past few months, we have been through much together. Your faithfulness to Christ has shone brightly in the way you demonstrated love towards one another as you have called and cared for your church family, faithfully sacrificed for the needs of the church, and participated in the various ways we tried to worship together. I am so thankful for you all. I gladly echo Paul's words, "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (Eph. 1:16)

I am excited that this Sunday we will be gathering together for in-person corporate worship in our auditorium. I have missed the sounds of your voices lifted in praise to God. I have missed seeing you as I speak. I have missed interacting with you before and after the service. I understand so much better the sentiments of the Psalmist when he stated, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1). We believe that it is time to gather back together and that we can do so in a safe, neighborly, and honorable manner.

Why is this important? Because of Christian worship. That is what we do. We do so on the Lord's Day, in the Lord's house, with the Lord's people, as we meet with the Lord. This is when we find greatest delight. This serves as the high-point of each week. This is why for many of us (if not all of us), the greatest personal loss over these past months has been our ability to meet together. While we have attempted to serve you through the weekly recorded services and the drive-in services, they have been poor substitutes for our weekly, in-person worship. But we return this week!

For those returning this week, our fellowship promises to be sweet with one another and the Lord. We will rejoice to greet one another, hear familiar voices lifted to God in song, see the blessing of children sitting with their families, and participating together in the Word. Of course, not all will be identical to what we experienced before the pandemic. While many things will remain the same, some things will not. We will sing the Word, pray the Word, read the Word, preach the Word, and (in a few weeks) picture the Word through the ordinances as we always do. My prayer is that the Lord will minister to us while we worship in such a way that any anxiety will quickly fade.

For those unable to return this week or possibly for some time to come, you will be missed. For you, we will continue to record our service and post it to our YouTube page. We understand why some can't come right now, and even that it is wise for some of our members not to do so. If you fall into this category, please know



that you will be missed greatly. Until you return, our body will remain incomplete and we look forward to the day when we can all gather together again.

For all, it is vital that we keep loving one another. In these tense societal times, patience can be too short, opinions can be too quickly shared, voices too strongly stated, and motives too readily judged. Let us continue to love one another well by extending grace and the benefit of the doubt as we consider others better than ourselves and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Let us also love one another by continuing to call and care for those who remain shut in.

As we gather together, I would like to give you an idea of what to expect on Sunday. When you come to the church building, a greeter will be there to open the door for you. Another greeter will be in the lobby to hand you a bulletin. If you have been a part of our greeting team in the past, I did not want to assume your continued participation. I have arranged for greeters for the next couple weeks. If you would like to continue to participate in this ministry at this time, please contact me and I will coordinate with Larry to create a schedule. If you would prefer not to continue at this time, we completely understand.

The governor has exempted places of worship from the mask requirements. However, The CDC still recommends them. There are divided opinions on masks in our body. So let us not make masks (wearing or not wearing) a measure of spirituality, maturity, wisdom, or love. It is vital in this area that you love one another.

As you enter the auditorium, you will immediately notice a difference. To encourage social distancing, we have blocked off every other pew. Please honor this attempt and do not sit in the closed off pews. If we blocked off "your" pew, I apologize. Feel free to make another pew "yours."

We will no longer be passing offering plates in the service. Instead locked, marked offering boxes have been installed at the doors in the foyers. Please make use of these boxes for your offering. As always, you can give online at [www.CambriaBaptist.org](http://www.CambriaBaptist.org)

While we know that some may be concerned about singing, we firmly believe that this is a command of God in worship. However, we will be limiting the amount we sing. If you are concerned about singing, we would encourage you to sit towards the back of the auditorium so that the particulates are in front of you and moving away from you.

For the time being we are not offering any children's programs. Parents, please do not be embarrassed when your children wiggle or "participate" in the service. We are excited they are a part of our body. Packets are available for them in the West Foyer. Members remember that kids don't come by themselves. Kids come with families. They are part of our church. Rejoice with them. Do not consider their wiggles or "participation" as a distraction but a reason to rejoice. God is raising another generation for His glory! Christ himself states, "Let the



children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."  
Families, please do not let the fact that there are no children's programs be the reason you do not return. We love your kids and rejoice to see and hear them!

Beginning Monday June 22, we will be offering Weeknight Bible Studies. These will take place from 7-8pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each study will be the same as we walk through the book of Genesis with an emphasis on helping you learn principles to make your own personal Bible study better. Signups are available in the West Foyer.

If you have any questions, concerns, needs, or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me. I love and miss you all. Let us joyfully gather together again on Sunday!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Dave  
Lead Pastor  
Cambria Baptist Church



