

Dear Church Members and Friends,

We have received confirmation from TD Bank that our application for the Payroll Protection Plan forgivable loan has been approved. We are waiting for the funds to be deposited into our account. This will be a great blessing during this time of not meeting together and financial uncertainty. The support we are receiving from the congregation is also a great blessing! Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of the church during this time.

The Worship Committee and the Trustees have met and are discussing our plans to reopen. I am enclosing a survey we would like to have you complete this week and return in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. We are concerned about the decrease in available seating during worship due to social distancing guidelines. We may be adding a reservation system to help us accommodate as many as possible when we return. We are also contemplating having overflow seating in Hardin Hall and/or the Choir Room. Additional worship services are also being considered. We want to have as many options as needed available to help you be a part of worship in some way each week. Of course, we also want to continue to reach out and make new disciples for Christ. Your answers to the survey will greatly help us as we move forward in making plans to reopen the church and continue our mission.

Please help us celebrate with you those in your family who are “graduating” from middle school, high school, college or other educational programs this May. So many will be unable to graduate with traditional ceremonies this year, we want to recognize those in your family who are graduating through our newsletter. Please send or drop off the name and school of your graduate and a photo, if possible.

Hebrews 6:13-20 offers us a promise from God just as God made a promise to Abraham, “When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.** It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

We have fled into our homes and it is getting old. We have fled because of an invisible but very real enemy that seeks to destroy and kill. We have fled in fear for our lives. Many have left work and school and normal activities behind. Yet we have also spent time with family, engaged in new activities, completed projects we did not have time for before. Many have a greater understanding of the gift of our schools and teachers. Many no longer take our freedom to worship together for granted. Our perspectives, perception and priorities have changed. Through it all God seeks to encourage us and give us hope. The hope God gives us is like an anchor for our souls! It keeps us from drifting away and aimlessly living out our days. God’s hope gives us security and keeps our roots planted firmly in faith.

I hope we can soon say, “Anchors aweigh!” to this time of fear and head back out into the world freely. While we all hope to get back to some sort of “normal”, we are assured the anchor of faith is always with us!

In Service with and for Christ,



Pastor Donna