

May 26, 2021

Dear Stone Church family,

We are writing to you, first, to share the great news that we are both fully vaccinated, as is our staff! We are feeling grateful for the researchers, doctors, caregivers, and the access we were able to have in order for this to be a reality. We know that many of you are now fully vaccinated as well, and several of our youth are also well on their way.

As things begin to slowly open up across the country and in California, we know that you are anxiously waiting and wondering when the church will reopen as well, and so we are writing to update you with what we know.

The Session of Stone Church is forming a “reopening task force,” which will meet regularly and consider all of the things we need to know and think about as we reopen, not only for worship but for all facility use. Throughout the pandemic, several committees as well as your leadership on Session have been in constant conversation about how to be together safely. Because the situation is rapidly changing, the Session has determined that it is prudent to create a special taskforce to engage deeply with the data and the recommendations of our local officials, in order to make recommendations to Session.

Practically speaking, as your pastors, we have navigated worship services through this pandemic online via Zoom. We are grateful for your support as we do and learn things (that no one taught us in seminary!) and create services through video editing and live content. We know that when we do get back into the sanctuary, in whatever limited capacity is recommended, we will still need to provide an online option for the wider community.

As a result, we have listed a job posting for a Worship Tech Coordinator to assist us with the logistics of this, and we are currently trying to figure out how to get strong, stable, and wired internet access and capabilities in the sanctuary and in the main building. Nothing was set up for this kind of capability in the past, which translates to more time and resources, and will push back worshipping in the sanctuary until this infrastructure is in place.

We know that even as many have experienced meaningful worship online, we are still longing to be physically together and worshipping in person. So,

we are also writing to extend an invitation to you to join us for some outdoor worship experiences we are planning for June, July, and August.

Once a month, we will gather on a Sunday afternoon to worship together outside. These services will include individual and communal prayer, music, and time for reflection and most importantly time to feel connected to God, to the earth, and to one another. We invite you to mark your calendars for our first worship experience on **Sunday, June 13th at 2:00PM**. You can sign up now at <https://rsvp.church/r/G6MPyS7U>

It will be a family friendly worshipping experience and all are welcome!

Until we can regather in the sanctuary for worship, we will continue to gather on Zoom or Facebook each Sunday morning. Although we cannot give you an official date for reopening, we are hoping for a Fall time frame to reopen in limited capacity in the sanctuary along with streaming capabilities.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for the Session and your pastors and staff as we navigate this together. Reach out to the Deacons and the pastors if you are in need of anything from your church family. We are here.

With hope and prayer,

The Revs. Irene Pak Lee & Sammie Evans