

Looking Forward

PCW on the Lawn is finally here!

After much care and deliberate planning, I'm excited to announce a worship experience designed to accommodate the health crisis. We will wear masks. We will social distance. We will worship in new ways (more on this in a moment). We will do all the things necessary in this time of pandemic.

We will also enjoy being together on our spacious front lawn while weather permits. We will be able to change the pace of life a bit by closing out the day in the middle of the hectic work week. We will hear God speaking to us, speak to each other, and speak back to God by taking a pause with others we care about in prayer and joyful reflection.

Join us, starting **Wednesday, August 5th at 7pm** for *PCW on the Lawn*.

Now, if you're wondering, "why Wednesday," well, we considered Sundays at all kinds of different times and several other times throughout the week, and we kept coming back to wanting to say that this service is special; this service is unique. It's not the inside service moved outside.

We are not going back into the sanctuary, chapel, and Westminster Hall yet. We are not having fellowship time after, or singing in worship. We don't even get to sit wherever we want! We also see that many of us need a way to break up the week a little and what better way than taking time on Wednesday evenings while it is still nice to step away from it all and catch our breaths together.

You can register here on our website with the Pre-Registration button, or by calling the office at (908) 233-0301.

Here is a little background on how we got here:

In June, I reached out to you with the exciting news that the Session was exploring safe ways for us to regather for a time. Even in the midst of great uncertainty nationwide concerning the impact of the pandemic, we continue to see at this time that New Jersey's efforts to contain the virus have been successful. From the beginning our elders and staff have tried to balance the spiritual need of maintaining community with the very real health concerns present.

For more than two months church leaders have diligently studied the best thinking around containment – even as new information has come and old views have been dispelled by the scientific process. Time and again leaders have commented on how complex this situation is, and how difficult it is to provide a safe environment for our members to regather for worship, learning, connecting, and service.

In June, the Session created a task force (see the July Spire) to devise guidelines for determining how and under what conditions we may regather in-person, and how our campus may be used as an arm of our important outreach ministry to and for the local community. As you would expect, we will be actively monitoring the recommendations of health and governmental authorities to determine what modifications, if any, may be needed to the service.

The top priority was to explore whether there was a safe way to conduct worship in-person. PCW on the LAWN is the result. I can't wait to be with you all again on Wednesday - on our front lawn.