

CommUnityNOW Temporarily Paused

When we made our decision to return to small group gatherings, the seven-day average for positive COVID tests in South Carolina was 7%. This past week the 7-day average for positive tests reached 20%. Since the situation has deteriorated in recent weeks, **we have decided the safest and most responsible action for our congregation is to temporarily pause our CommUnityNOW groups.**

From the beginning, we said we would evaluate the developing health situation in our state and keep the congregation informed. This temporary pause is not our desired outcome but is the result of keeping our promise to monitor the situation and provide the safest possible scenario for you. Please know that we have LOVED seeing you in person on Sundays, and our hearts were warmed as we saw you gather together. We cannot predict the future, but we will keep a watchful eye on the situation and report back to the congregation prior to September 1 about next steps.

Fortunately, all our digital ministry continues, and we are finding new methods to bring these ministries to you. Every Sunday you can join us for worship, be blessed with Evening Song, and listen to the Sunday morning children's lesson. During the week there are children's stories and Tuesday Tunes. And of course, the Sunday and Wednesday update emails to keep you informed.

To maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of Christ, I humbly ask you to join together in your own homes and do the following---

- This Friday at your evening meal offer a prayer for researchers, doctors, nurses, and patients who are on the front line looking for solutions and fighting the virus.
- This Sunday make an effort to call or text three families to check on them and share some "phone" fellowship.
- Finally do what you feel is necessary to keep yourself safe during these challenging times.

Praying for you and longing to see you, John