

October 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

When I was a kid our family used to camp at Honeyman State Park on the Oregon coast. The distinctive feature of this park is the two miles of sand dunes between the camping spaces and the ocean. These mountains of sand are hundreds of feet tall and really fun to run, roll, or slide down on an old cardboard box.

Of course, getting back UP those dunes was not so fun! I'm not sure if Chuck Swindoll had hiking up sand dunes in mind when he wrote his book "Three Steps Forward Two Steps Back", but I'm sure you know the feeling.

As you know, we've tried to keep you updated on major developments with regard to the Santa Clara County (SCC) regulations regarding worship gatherings. Like the shifting sands, these are constantly changing. Just yesterday our county officially moved into the Orange Risk tier – what that means for us is "Indoor worship services are now allowed, but they must limit their capacity to the lesser of 25% of normal capacity or 100 people." On the surface this seems like a big step forward. Unfortunately, the regulation prohibiting singing indoors has NOT been lifted. In other words, we can meet in our worship center with up to 100 people, but we can't sing. The other news is that our outdoor gathering attendance limit has been lifted from 60 to 200.

These factors have led us to determine that we'll continue to meet outdoors for as long as the weather allows us to. Worship is such a central part of our faith and practice that it is very difficult for us to gather without it. As you've seen from Darren's invitation, we're having our outdoor services at 9:00 and 10:45 am. We'll continue to observe all the state and county safety protocols including the need to sign up in advance [here](#). We're watching and working toward that day when we'll be back inside again, praising the Lord TOGETHER!

Thank you for your encouragement, prayer, and support as we continue to seek God during these times. We recognize that this option may not be ideal for everyone, but we're doing our best to be creative, diligent, and focused on our purpose. We'll continue to offer our online services as well. Every one of our ministries is looking for creative ways to fulfill our mission and vision of making disciples, in light of the shifting sands of our circumstances. God's people always have and always will prevail! It is in moments of crisis that amazing "new wineskins" are developed which end up making a huge impact for the Gospel.

We encourage you to visit the websites for the [CDC](#) and the [Santa Clara County Public Health Department](#) to keep updated with the latest information for our area. More important, stay connected to Jesus and His people through time in the Word, prayer, fellowship (online or otherwise), and serving others!

In Christ,

Kurt