



CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

Igniting a Passion for God

Dear Friends,

We say it each time we communicate to you, and I say it again: **We are grateful** for your prayers, support, and encouragement here at Church of the Open Door. Your notes, engagement, and plain old “hanging with us” during these uncertain times have meant so very much to me personally and all of us who serve and lead. You are a blessing to us!

I want to begin by celebrating these past few months in the life of our church! We’ve seen about 50-60% of our congregation come back for in-person services and ministries and it’s been good to see many of you. I also want to thank God for how He used our “40 Days in the Word” to really unify us and focus us on learning from God’s Word. I’ve heard from many how God has used this time to also connect us to each other. I’m looking forward to how God will use Galatians over these next months!

As many of us are aware, **recent surges in COVID cases** in the United States and here in PA, have necessitated adjustments in programming and procedures for many organizations and events. Up to this point our church has been spared from any outbreak traced back to our services/events, for which we thank God. As of this week, numbers of schools and churches in our area have decided to close for a few weeks, and those that have remained open are adjusting to new protocols. The leaders of COD have decided that **at this time no programs or events will be cancelled**, but with the new guidelines from the state, **we’ll require masks to be worn at all our indoor services/programs/events, at all times**. Please continue to social distance with those not in your family. The only exceptions to the mask requirement will be those teaching up front in classrooms, those on-stage, and children under 3 years of age. Up to this point we’ve attempted to give our church different options for our services, because we understand that people feel differently about protocols regarding COVID. But now during this surge we’re asking each of us to set aside our preferences so that we can all worship in an environment where we’re taking as many precautions as possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The Holiday Season is quickly coming upon us, and, in case you haven’t heard, we have some exciting news! With everything going on in our culture we know that Thanksgiving and Christmas will look different this year, but we want to celebrate it well! So . . . on **Thanksgiving Eve** we’ll safely gather at our campuses and share the Lord’s blessing on our lives this past year. Our Thanksgiving offering will go toward the hospital in Camelot, West Africa. And then **for Christmas we’re going to do it up big and reach out to our city, downtown, at People’s Bank Stadium, the home of the York Revolution!** Yes, you read that right! Because we are #foryork we’ve decided in this unique time to take our Christmas service TO YORK! Not only can we help our entire city celebrate the birth of the only One who can truly change our lives, but we all get to be together as ONE CHURCH!! We know you’ll have questions so there will be more details to come. Plan to bring your family and friends downtown to celebrate Christmas at the Rev’s Stadium on Wednesday, December 23rd!

Because we believe that our task of reaching our world is truly Unfinished, **we want to finish 2020 strong in every way, including financially**. We’re thankful that many of you have been so generous to COD in the midst of a difficult year. This year has taught us that we want to leverage our debt and

fortify our resources for wherever God leads us in the future. So, we want to end the year on a good financial standing, while paying down our debt as much as we can. Let me challenge you to give as generously as you can as we finish the year. If God has enabled and blessed you financially this year, please consider giving over and above to your church, so that we can aggressively pay down our debt and finish strong financially. **Thank you ahead of time for your giving!**

During times like these my mind goes key Scriptures that motivate me. I leave you with those familiar words in Joshua 1:9... **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”** Let’s help our community find and follow Jesus, who is truly our only HOPE!

God’s very best to you,

Pastor Bob