

# Restoration Update

August 9th, 2021

To the Beloved Community of Woodland,

As we continue to work towards transitioning together, the uncertainties of the world continue to swirl around us. We need to alter how August 15th will look, sound, and feel.

**August 15th “re-opening the sanctuary” date will need to be pushed back to September 12th. This Sunday we will be holding to our previous pattern of:**

**9:00am Worship (Maresh Hall)**

**10:00am Sunday school**

**11:00am Worship (Maresh Hall)**

While we are saddened by this sudden change due to construction work, we want to communicate clearly what you should expect this Sunday as we take a smaller step, but step nonetheless forward together as a church towards remembering and growing into practices of worship and life together that reflect the call God has on our lives as individuals and as a corporate body of believers in Christ.

The construction and clean up work needed by the crews working on the building need more time to not just complete the work but to make it shine. We thought surely this work would be done in time to give us the opportunity to open up the Sanctuary building for August 15. They have yet to complete their work, and we cannot wait until Saturday to decide whether or not to enter the Sanctuary building the next day. As many of you know who dealt with restoration project this year, it seems the challenges of shortages in labor and materials due to the pandemic create longer waits every step of the way.

Parallel to their work is our ability to move, rebuild, and set up our worship/ children’s spaces to be a home for us again as community.

Much like the body of Christ, in this restoration project each part effects the whole. In order to restart our individual adult Sunday School classes we need to be able to move our Children’s classes back into their respective rooms. And in order to safely allow entrance into the sanctuary building we need to be able to empty the Gathering Place where the contents of the Children’s Sunday School rooms are being stored in the interim.

We would rather take more time to make it great, and not just ok. As the workers put the finishing touches on their work we will be able to move in - to place our chairs, fine tune the instruments, dust off our worship in the sanctuary, and be ready to welcome all with a smile and confidence in our new space.

We apologize for this unfortunate news. This past year has been a year of perseverance, patience, and faith in Christ who never abandons us.

If you have any questions, as always, the ministers are glad to listen and sit with you as we continue to chart a course leaning in to hear the still small voice of God in this wilderness season.

Peace,

Garrett Vickrey