



COVID Update as of August 2021

While the majority of our congregation has elected to take the vaccine, the new variant of this virus has proven that the vaccine will only lessen the effects of the virus, but not keep one from catching it or sharing it to others. As Scripture clearly teaches us, we will follow our leaders that God has set over us. (Matt. 22:17-21; Rom. 13:1; 1Pet. 2:13; 1Tim. 2:2-3) If our government mandates the wearing of mask and places limits on/shutdowns of large gatherings, we will honor their request since it is not a direct assault on our religious freedoms. It will only be a direct assault on our religious freedoms when they single Christians out and allow other religions and non-religious gatherings to take place while condemning ours. If and when that happens, we will then practice civil disobedience pertaining to the free expression of our faith only. (Daniel 3, 6; Acts 5:28-29) Until then, we will honor their request. While it is clearly not the same as gathering in person and cannot possibly meet all the multiple “one another” commands in Scripture, we have been blessed here at Shoal Creek and have the capability to meet online if such a situation is mandated by our governing authorities. Currently, there are no such mandates.

Therefore, we will continue to gather to worship, serve, grow, and give as Scripture commands us to do. (40 plus “one another” commands in New Testament; 1Cor. 5:4; Eph. 4:11-16; 1Tim. 3:14-15; Heb. 10:23-25) Do not allow your liberty in Christ to be an avenue for sin. (1Pet. 2:15-17) If you desire to wear a mask, then please follow your conscience on that matter and wear a mask. (Acts 24:16; Rom. 2:15, 14:1-23, 1Tim. 3:9) We do specifically ask our Body of Believers here to use their God given common sense. If you are sick, stay home and worship



online. Please care enough for your fellow brothers and sisters to stay home if you are showing any symptoms. If you have tested positive for COVID, or have been around one who has, please follow the recommendations of your physician regarding to the length of quarantine and social distancing measures.

Our Love and Unity with one another are the two characteristics Jesus specifically said the world would know we are His followers. (John 13:35, 17:20-23) Now is the time where both our Love and Unity can shine. Do not allow this virus, media (conservative & liberal), fear, pride, and ultimately Satan to divide us. Remain loving, humble, and respectable of one another. Respect other's decisions and love and serve them above yourself as Romans 12:10-13 says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."