

SAYING GOODBYE TO LIVE-STREAMING

-Ryan Parsons-

On March 15th, 2020, our congregation conducted its first online worship service using live-streaming technology. In a world struggling through the Covid-19 pandemic, like other churches across the globe, we took to the digital airwaves in an attempt to remain connected and encourage one another in our faith journey. What a journey it has been!

I imagine this experience has been similar to what the diaspora must have felt like in their exile. It led to us grasping for something that would keep us connected until we could all be back together again. It hasn't been easy. Frankly, at times it has been painful. There have been steep learning curves, mistakes, and technological difficulties, to name a few of the obstacles that have tried to derail our attempts. Not everything worked out or the way we hoped. For that, I am very sorry. Some have openly embraced this tool and method. Others have disagreed. Regardless of where you landed on the issue, please know it was only intended with love and faithfulness to bless the body of Christ in uncertain and unprecedented times.

We have reached a pivot point. On July 25th, we will have our last live-streamed worship service. This decision has not been made lightly nor without prayer. It is believed this is the best course of action for our congregation at this time. Since everyone older than 12 who wants a vaccine has access to it and now that it's reasonably safe to gather together again, we will transition our focus to rebuilding the post-pandemic church. There is much work to do. We wanted to let everyone know about this decision as soon as possible so that there is ample time for those still wrestling with returning to the public assembly to pray and discern their next steps. If you would like us to pray with you about your decision, please feel free to reach out to one of our shepherds or me.

We offer the Lord our gratitude for allowing us to use technology in this way for the last 16 months and for being our refuge in these challenging times. May His hand be upon us as we move forward.

To God be the Glory,
Ryan