



May 16, 2020

3CROSSES UPDATE: CURRENT & FUTURE PLANS

Dear 3Crosses Family,

We know that many people are wondering, “*When will 3Crosses reopen?*” So, I wanted to give you an update on our church -- adjustments we’ve made this season and a glimpse into what our plans are going forward.

First, I’d like to say that I miss being together as a church family. I miss getting to see your smile and feel your warm greetings! We know that God created us for connection with Him and, if we didn’t know before, He also created us to be in connection with each other and we *miss it!*

Second, like many churches and businesses affected by COVID-19, 3Crosses has also had to adjust the way we operate and do ministry and though our campus has closed, our church ministry has never stopped. We believe in the mission of reaching the world with the transforming love of Jesus Christ and we are committed to continually finding new ways, even in this rough season, to do just that! We have begun *Online Sunday Services*, Community Groups, House of Prayer, Women’s Ministry, Men Ministry, Kids & Students and many of you have seen or been able to be a part of some of the ***new ways*** we’re coming alongside our Community during this season:

- We’ve expanded our food pantry which is now caring for over 700 families each week (*including delivery to those unable to leave their homes*)
- We’ve been able to help those experiencing unemployment with our benevolence fund
- We’re finding ways to thank and bless our essential workers
- We’re partnering with our local Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and churches to care for and serve our community together
- Our Student & Kids Ministries will be having a *drive-thru* graduation celebration later this month to honor the 2020 graduating classes

Third, in addition to finding *new ways*, we’ve also come to the realization that some of what we’ve done will ***not*** be able to happen again for quite *some time*. Our church leadership has agreed to follow our County’s *Shelter In Place Guidelines*, and we’ve developed a plan to eventually reopen our church for gatherings that will be:

- A. in phases
- B. in cooperation and coordination with other local churches
- C. in line with our County’s reopening phases

Even when we do reopen our campus, we can all agree there will be a *new normal!*

Once we are able to gather again physically for worship, we envision using *multiple* venues during worship service times (Main Auditorium, Chapel, Senior Adult Center, Children's Ministry Center, Online, etc.) with worship and a broadcast message to each venue. A reservation system will be used based on gathering size restrictions set by our County, and as restrictions loosen the gathering sizes will change. When it's an option for us, we'll be ready to move forward!

Another effect of not gathering together is that our (*in-person*) General Fund giving has decreased. This fund helps to fuel all of 3Crosses Ministries from our Communities to Kids Departments and because of:

- the *length* of this season, through the foreseeable future
- adjustments in ministry focus
- our hearts to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted us with

We've decided to make some very difficult staffing decisions. Many of our staff have taken pay cuts and a few, who no longer have job duties as a result of the changes in the ways that we can do ministry, have either been temporarily or permanently laid off.

Lastly, we don't have all the answers, we're not sure when we'll be able to move forward but we will be ready when the day comes and we are longing for the day that we can all gather together again!

We thank you and we appreciate your support, your prayers for our church and staff, and your prayers for our surrounding communities who are also going through so many changes. God is working through His church (His people) to bring the transforming love of Jesus to the Bay Area and we are proud to partner with you in this mission!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Danny Strange

Dr. Danny Strange, Senior Pastor

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." ~ Eph 4:2-3