Greetings South River Family,

We are 5 months into a global pandemic called COVID-19, and the way we have done worship has changed. Who we worship has not changed!

The Leadership of South River has explored various options as to how we come together to worship and carry out the ministry's of God's Kingdom. One thing is we have never waivered on is the need to reach out to those in need of Grace. While different, we have been active and moving forward. We continued with online worship with Facebook and in June we started to hold Drive-in worship. Early on we partnered with several other churches and provided hot meals to West Rowan students and families during the scheduled Spring Break. Missions through the Food Pantry continued to provide food to those in need. Mid-week Bible studies continued through Zoom.

We like you have waited for things to settle into what will be the 'New Normal'. Yet things continue to move and be fluid not coming to rest on any particular standard. Rates of positive Covid cases continue to go up and down. It is frustrating to all.

It is during these types of circumstances where the true nature and character of individuals comes out. I applaud the patience that the people of South River through it all.

I also know that there are varying opinions as to what is acceptable practice and how big the risk is. There are those who have only known of one way to have worship. But I want to point out that in the time following Jesus' Crucifixion – Christianity was considered a cult. People put their own lives at risk to come together to receive instruction, pray, and gather encouragement from each other – 'to worship'. They did this for almost 300 years before Constantine had his encounter and made Christianity the official religion of Rome.

We too need to be steadfast in our faith and trust in Jesus.

Under these current times, You have the opportunity to let the light of Christ shine through you and really make a difference. People all over are looking for answers of reassurance and hope.

It is easy when the weight of life's events take our focus away from God's word and presence. Don't feel bad, that's normal and everyone goes through periods of distraction. Jesus knew that, and He told us to pray without ceasing. Several times in scripture we are told to Love God with all of our heart, mind, & soul. We need to keep Jesus at the center of our awareness and our life.

At the present, we at South River are planning to move forward with going to 2 worship services: an inside service at 9 AM and continue with the Drive-in service at 10 AM.

We are still asking for those coming inside to use a mask and set in family groups. More details will be coming soon.

Continue to hold strong in the Faith.

AJ Moore