



TYLER STREET CHURCH

making disciples
of Jesus Christ...

PASTORAL UPDATE: I pray you and your loved ones are well and navigating these days with the confidence-making peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we try to peer into 2021 we see no immediate changes to our culture of protection and distancing. With this in mind, your church leaders and I have made some relevant decisions, the most important ones I share with you below. Remember that we are trying to respond to current health conditions. As they change, so can we. We miss you.

WEEKLY WORSHIP: The blended worship service has allowed us to gather as one—much needed after not worshiping together from March to August. Though exciting at first, it's now time to adjust back toward more usual and separated services.

a) Traditional: For the foreseeable future we will offer *less-than-an-hour worship* on Sunday mornings at 10am. As the pandemic dawdles on we want to be considerate of the folks who worship virtually, the majority of our weekly participants. We will continue to tweak and improve our live-stream worship experience.

b) Contemporary: *The Branch* has graciously opened up for all ages to join them! Most of their band and leadership lead our Sunday contemporary experiences so it makes sense for the time being to refrain from duplicating efforts. They now meet at 5pm on Saturday evenings for an hour of singing, 30 minutes of teaching, and up to 30 minutes of prayer ministry. It takes place in Anderson Hall and they invite you to join in for any or all of it. To worship with The Branch online just click on our tylerstreet.church homepage and submit your email to be added to their guest list.

c) Children & Communion: Starting 02/14 we will offer *Children's Church* in the Children's Building simultaneous to worship for young ones *preschool through fifth grade*. For protocol reasons we are not yet able to provide a Nursery. Keeping with most schools, children will be received and returned at the front door. As for *Holy Communion*, we will offer it in person and online on the first Sunday of each month. The Branch will offer it on occasion but is not set up for a regular sacrament.

FOCUS FOR LENT: Discerning what we most need to ponder during the season of self-denial—amidst a covid year of self-denial—I offer a subtle but significant shift. Join us as we unpack the profound and very Christlike virtue of humility. Guided by a *spiritual classic [book]* of the same name by Andrew Murray, sermons from Ash Wednesday [online only] to Easter Sunday will follow set chapters, elaborating on particular nuggets of godly wisdom. *For your own copy* simply give an extra \$10 to the church, email a request through the office or website, and we will mail it you.

2021 BUDGET: Last year's budget was \$720K. We only received \$665K but we also spent less. Though not a rosy picture, we fared better than many churches. Thank you! So, considering all factors, we set this year's budget at a lean \$600K, without cutting staff. We appreciate how you give *with glad and generous hearts* –Acts 2:46.

Continuing together in Jesus' name,

Rev. Jeff Garrett, Lead Pastor