

I could've sent you an email with this information, but we wanted to speak to you so you could hear our hearts.

On Friday President Trump announced that governors should allow their states to open their churches. Of course this was thrilling news that both blessed us and surprised us:

- It blessed us b/c this is what we've been praying and fasting for
- It surprised us b/c it was unexpected...and b/c it was Friday...and Sunday was two days away

Although we want to reopen more than we can put into words, one of the things Pastor Nathan has been saying is that we want to do the right things the right way.

Since President Trump's announcement we've been communicating – literally – almost nonstop regarding what it looks like to reopen the right way, but – as much as it pains me to say this – we don't feel like we have enough time to open the right way for tomorrow.

So we're coming before you asking for one more week. I truly hate even having to ask – and I know the rest of the elders feel the same – but we don't feel like we could give the attention to reopening that it deserves.

On Friday night we had a Zoom meeting w/ the home fellowship leaders. You're welcome to meet w/ them Sunday morning if they'd like. This will give you fellowship, and they have the guidelines that we're given to us that we passed along.

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Pastor Nathan shares

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Second, I have one more request...

The CDC has put out many recommendations and considerations for faith-based communities. Many people are going to apply them differently:

- Some people will want to hug...and some won't
- Some people will want to shake hands...and some won't
- Some people will want to wear masks...and some won't

Our request is that you please be gracious with each other and don't condemn people who do things differently than you. This is the point of 1 Cor 8 and Rom 14.

Some people are going to choose to stay home, and that's fine. We will continue to live stream the service. But if people stay home, we want that to be b/c that's what they think is wise. We don't want it to be b/c they think they're going to be condemned for wearing a mask...not shaking hands...or not hugging.

Pastor Nathan shares and closes in prayer.