



Important Notice

Hello everyone,

Our wild world continues. We've been living this far longer than many of us thought when the COVID-19 virus pandemic started. Thank you to those who were able to take our Church Pulse Survey. The information you provided gave our church board valuable information that aided our discussions of how and when we should come together as a community of believers again (the results are attached). The church board voted on Monday, May 11, to form a Planning Committee to establish when and how we will conduct services when we meet again in the church building. We felt this committee was necessary to address the concerns raised from the survey as well as conversations with members. The committee will consider the guidelines given to the faith-based communities by the City of Lincoln, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

We have a diverse congregation, which is the beauty of the Piedmont family, so many factors go into how and when we conduct services. Our worship experience requires many volunteers, who we want to consider as well. As a shepherd of this flock I must look after the safety of everyone. We have to be considerate of the elderly within our congregation as well as our families with young children. We know we can't account for everything, but we want to be as responsible as possible to provide a safe environment for those who come through our doors. I've been in contact with the other Seventh-day Adventist churches within Lincoln, and they also plan to postpone services for this month (May). I am also monitoring local, state and federal guidelines as our conference has advised us to do. Lincoln has a [dashboard](https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/) that shares updated information daily at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/>

Our online services seem to be doing well. These services will continue even after we meet in our church building for those who wish to stay home. Piedmont Park's Website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube are great resources for connection. The best way to be notified when a new video posts to YouTube or a new post is made on Facebook is to LIKE and SUBSCRIBE to those pages.

Website: www.piedmontparksda.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/piedmontparksda

Instagram: www.instagram.com/piedmontparksda

YouTube: www.youtube.com/piedmontparkchurch

Our children's division Sabbath Schools are remaining connected via YouTube Sabbath School videos, private Facebook pages and ZOOM classes. Our adult Sabbath Schools offer a YouTube lesson study and some have private Facebook pages. Our Caring Heart Ministry sends DVDs, bulletins and letters to those in our congregation who are not able to view services online. Women's Ministries provided a drive-by opportunity to pick up Mother's Day gifts! Our Family Bible Adventure team is preparing a virtual FBA experience! Our weekly bulletin is available on our website. Each Wednesday Pastor Michael shares a Weekly Thoughts video, and starting next week a brand new series called Tea Time with Pastor Kate will premiere! We continue to explore other ways our church family can come together during this time.

We ask you to pray for the Planning Committee as they develop plans for when and how we should come together at the church building. Another survey will be conducted and an update on the plan should be available at our next board meeting, and to you, in June. We want to make informed decisions that show love for God and our neighbors. Thank you for your faithfulness, patience, and prayers.

May God bless you and stay safe.

Pastor Michael Halfhill