



August 27, 2020

Greetings, Lettered Streets Covenant Church family!

The seasons are a changing.

Ecclesiastes chapter three opens with the line: *There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven*. Yes, thousands of years before Pete Seeger wrote the famous song, *Turn, Turn, Turn*, performed by the Byrds in 1959, Qoheleth penned Ecclesiastes in which they wrestled with the futility of life chasing after happiness and wisdom apart from God.

It's been over five months since the pandemic shut down our in-person worship gatherings back in March and over that time we have tried to stay connected as a worshiping community through various, sporadic points of virtual contact and weekly worship resources that people can interact with on their own timeline.

But the seasons are changing.

The scattered nature of summer travels in the Pacific Northwest is quickly giving way to the morning chill of autumn, the anticipation of school—even virtual school—starting back up, and the recognition that with the shorter days, and foul weather coming, our church community needs each other more than ever.

The seasons are changing, and I am excited for the opportunity to re-engage and to grow together. There are lots of exciting things coming up in the weeks and months to come involving Kid's Church and Youth Ministry and special events, but the two I want to highlight in this announcement are the following:

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

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First, your Leadership Team and Staff have been listening and we hear you. We hear the cry for more connection, for more consistency, and for more community. In response to the cries of our hearts and the changing season, we are going to take this opportunity to try something different for our Sunday worship gatherings.

**Starting at 5pm on Sunday, September 13**, we will be connecting via Zoom to all gather at one place at one time to participate in worship together. We'll be able to see each other's faces to remember we are not alone. We'll have the opportunity to participate in the elements of the service by reading the scriptures, praying, and singing in real time, and we'll provide space either before or after the service to interact in breakout rooms.

There are many details to work out between now and then and the staff will keep in contact to update you with specifics as they take shape. There are details to sort out but we feel it is better to begin modestly together than to try and anticipate every element and pitfall at the cost of waiting to connect. The reality is, our live, in-person gatherings were never perfect anyway! We are better together in our flaws than apart with a bit more polish.

Second, starting the week of September 13, we will engage in a 10-week course called Re-Frame, by Regent College. Many of you participated in Re-Frame a couple years ago but as we move into a sermon series on the book of Daniel titled, *Flourishing in Exile*, I thought it would be beneficial to study Re-Frame concurrently because it deals with *how to live our biblical faith in the everyday world of work, life, and play*.

Some existing small groups will simply walk through the material together but my Wednesday evening group has graciously offered to open up for Re-Frame meaning anyone in the church can join us! Please do!

There are two elements to Re-Frame: a) A weekly video teaching by some leading scholars and thinkers, and b) weekly discussion questions based on the video and scripture.

The videos and lessons are all free [HERE](#).

The Wednesday format will be as follows:

6:30-7:10 40 minute video

7:15-8:15 60 minute discussion

You can decide to watch the video with the group, or watch it on your own before the group and simply join us for the discussion time at 7:15 if that works better for your schedule.

To participate in Re-Frame with the Wednesday group, you'll need to register so we can send you a Zoom link each week. You may [Register Here](#).

I know this season has been difficult on all of us. I am aware that change is hard, especially in this ever changing environment. I appreciate your trust and grace as we attempt to lead the congregation through uncharted territory in a meaningful and sustainable way. I am encouraged as I think of our church entering into a new season because I think our best days are ahead of us, and because the God over all seasons is sovereign over us.

Grace and peace to you,

Chris