****

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE #1**

It’s not the same, is it?

COVID-19 changed everything for our congregation. We learned how to worship online from home. We used virtual ways to stay connected to each other—to maintain our sense of Christian community. We also adapted how we serve each other and our neighbors while remaining socially distanced. But it’s just not the same, is it?

When we look at the blessings from the pandemic, one of the biggest is that we were reminded in so many ways of the joy we experience when God’s people gather. There is just no replacement for it.

Now it’s time to celebrate! Let’s celebrate being able to gather together again. Let’s celebrate the joy we experience as a family of believers when we worship together—fellowship with each other—serve together—and take the Lord’s supper side by side.

**On Sunday, [month and day], we are going to celebrate as a church family and praise God on a very special celebration Sunday, as we re-gather after time apart.** Psalm 26:8 says, “I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells.” This is why we gather.

Look for more details coming soon about celebration Sunday. It will also be the perfect opportunity to reach out to others with a personal invitation to join us as we gather and praise God for all of his blessings.