

Eastminster Family,

It is with a heavy heart that we are officially canceling Camp in a Day. In June, the student ministries team had an idea to capture the essence of camp by packing a week of camp into one day. What we didn't anticipate was a spike of covid-19 cases that would lead to an emergency public health order that prohibits mass gatherings of 45 individuals in Sedgwick county. While the event takes place in Butler county, the spirit of the of law is something we had to consider. We reached out to several medical professionals in our congregation, and the unanimous consensus was these events (with over 100 people) was too great of health risk of spreading the virus. We spent hours trying brainstorming ideas on how to safely host the event, but could not find a solution that was adequate. We had in mind situations like Kanakuk K2 in Missouri, where 82 campers, counselors and staff contracted the virus, even after following strict guidelines by the CDC. Ultimately, after consulting with our discipleship Elder and Pastor Stan, we made the difficult decision to cancel.

We have t-shirts, a ton of hamburger meat, water bottles, booklets, sermons and devotionals all prepared and ready to go. This means there is a possibility to have this event or a modified version of it in the future. That said, there are no guarantees. Regarding your payments, you are welcome to seek a refund OR let us hold onto the money in case does happen, or it can be applied to a future retreat. We will send an email out next week with instructions on how to proceed with the money and your options.

On a personal note, we are quite torn up about the decision. A lot of time and energy has gone into preparing these events, and I know how disappointed our team and interns are. We can only imagine how disappointing this news is for students. This has been the summer of "bad news". We remind ourselves to cling to the good news we have in Jesus in these troubling times. We are trying to live by Paul's words in Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." We ask that you join us as we continue to pray for our students, our church and our world. We will keep trying to provide safe, creative and meaningful ways for our students to connect with God and each other. Thanks for your understanding and grace as we all continue to navigate a challenging summer.

In Christ,
Matt & Mike