

Hello Vineyard!

As our world continues to change rapidly all around us, we have been praying about and discussing what comes next for our church. When do we start meeting together again? What should that look like? What do we do with the great divisions in our society? In the midst of these questions, we feel God leading us in some surprising directions.

This is long email, but really important! Please read through to the end. We'll explain the following:

- No longer broadcasting the pre-recorded Sunday Lounge
- Taking two weeks to seek God together as a church
- Resuming Sunday broadcasts on June 28 with a live-stream from the sanctuary

June 7 was the last Sunday Lounge (for now): [\(watch the full episode here\)](#)

The Sunday Lounge has served us well as a church in this crazy season of quarantine and we are grateful for all God has done through it. But, as the world and our church continue to change, the pre-recorded format (originally designed for just a few weeks), needs to change as well.

Our Church, Our Mission: Two Weeks of Seeking God

We feel lead by God to invite each one of you into a **two-week period of intentionally pressing into prayer, fasting, and seeking God as a Body**. We feel not just the need to hear from God, but the opportunity for God to stir our church in our individual and collective calling to **move every person toward Jesus**. We have always longed for the whole body to be empowered for the Spirit to carry out the mission of the church, not only on Sundays, but in every time and every place.

What about Sundays during these two weeks?

To create time and space for this to happen, **we will not broadcast Sunday services during these two weeks** (June 14 and 21). That might be a shock to you, but we believe God can use this time without a Sunday service in ways we haven't seen before. Just as intentionally stepping away from our normal lives can provide needed space to develop our personal relationship with Jesus, we are praying this time and space will help form in us the things that Jesus desires.

Why are we doing this now?

We are convinced that God wants us to adopt some additional ways of bringing his Love, Presence, Truth, and Power. These innovations will not come from church staff or top leaders inviting members to participate in something already planned. Instead, we believe God wants to birth these fresh winds of mission out of the lives and passions of our members and leaders who seek God with their whole hearts and respond obediently. As we always say, "everyone gets to play", and we believe God will call many of you out of the stands and onto the field.

What will this look like?

We are breaking this time into two weeks:

Week 1: Seek (June 8 – 14) – during week 1, we invite each of you to join in devoting ourselves to prayer, maybe fasting and seeking God. We want to ask this question, "What are you stirring in me for how I might move every person toward Jesus?"

Week 2: Share (June 15 – 21) – Sharing what God is saying to you can be a big part of what God wants to birth. So, in the second week, we encourage you to share with others what God is laying on your heart!

Please take some time to go through vcclife.org/2weeks:

- Watch the [16-minute video](#) from the June 7 Sunday Lounge where David, Caleb and Emily talk about these next two weeks.
- Read more about what we will do in these two weeks
- Find resources to equip you in these two weeks

Sunday Livestream starting June 28:

As we move on from the Sunday Lounge format, we're excited to say that we will move to a live-stream Sunday service. We feel God is leading us in this direction for at least several reasons:

1. To provide an on-ramp to opening Sunday services to in-person participation over time. Due to ever-shifting restrictions, we are not sure exactly how this will look or what the timeline is just yet, but we feel confident meeting physically together again for worship is the direction God is leading us.
2. To return to the format we had for Sunday service pre-Covid with most of the teachings done by David with the worship team leading from the stage.
3. To be able to rely more on the Holy Spirit's leading in real time, rather than recording several days before-hand

We know this is a lot to take in all at once! Please do check out vcclife.org/2weeks to get a better understanding. We will also load a page of FAQ's to answer questions you might have after taking it all in. If you still have questions after that, do not hesitate to reach out to a VCC leader you know or an LCP. You can find a listing of several VCC leaders at stlvineyard.org/leaders

Blessings to you all,
David