



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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Friends,

I mentioned this in worship a couple of Sundays ago, but it continues to be on my mind. A few weeks back I ran into a couple on Las Olas who are First Pres members. Their children were in youth ministry, and I have served with both the husband and wife on myriad projects in the past and for the last 12 years as I've served on staff. I've seen them virtually every week, often more frequently than that, until now.

It had been 6 months since I had seen them face to face and seeing them in person...these familiar faces...getting to see their smiles. I was almost overwhelmed with emotion. I was truly surprised just how good it was to see them. I've experienced this now a multitude of times bumping into people around town. I really miss people, so many relationships I just took for granted. Perhaps you've experienced something like this too.

Here at church your staff and lay leaders wanted to create that experience for you on campus in a way that would be safe, in a way that would be as inclusive as possible, understanding that the comfort level to be out in public varies based on individual circumstances. That is the heart of the event this weekend, SATURDAY NIGHT DRIVE, a desire to be together, to see familiar faces, and an opportunity to share a smile with people you love.

We want to see you on Saturday at 6pm right here on campus. In this email you will find a map of the route, and here are the four things we are asking you to do to prepare:

1. Reserve your spot. You will find a link in this email, on the church app, or you can call the church office.
2. Decorate your car. Affix your family's name to it so people know who's behind the wheel.
3. When you arrive enter the campus down SE 15th Ave and you will be directed from there.
4. Bring your appetite. We will have prepackaged treats and food to hand out along with a number of other surprises.

We miss you and we want to see you at Saturday Night Drive.

Finally, we hope you will join us for virtual worship the next day on Sunday, September 13th at 11am. You will find it helpful to read Matthew 18:21-35 as you prepare for worship.

Faithfully,

THE REVEREND NICHOLAS BOREN MERCHANT

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