



The Rev. Mark A. Sandell, Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am writing to you as you are signed up for the summer mission trip to Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, KY. It with a sad heart that I have to inform you that we will not be able to attend this year due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19. We will plan on going next year.

Due to all that is going on with the pandemic Big Creek has been hit hard. Its ability to help the people in the community is dependent on groups like ours coming to them, with not only the financial aspect but also the labor aspect. When we go, we become the hands and feet of Jesus reaching out to help with ministering to the people. We do this not just by cutting grass, serving a meal or playing with the kids, but also it is the opportunity for us to show Christ' love to others by being an example of his love. I do hope that in knowing this you will plan to attend next year.

In order to reserve our space to go on this trip, the youth group paid a deposit to Big Creek. It has been decided that in order to still help in some way for Big Creek to persevere through this time we will not ask for our deposit back from Big Creek. We will be letting them keep the funds as our way of doing mission in that area even if we cannot go. I know many of you paid a deposit for the trip and some even paid in full. If you are thinking of or planning on going next year, the funds you already paid will be kept and applied to that trip, however, if you would like your deposit money back please let us know and we will get it back to you. We completely understand whichever decision you make.

As a final request, I ask that you keep Big Creek and all the other missions out there in your prayers. We are aware of the struggles that Big Creek is currently going through, but the pandemic has hit other missions, both afar and in our community hard and they are struggling.

In Christ's Love,

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