



# CASTRO VALLEY FIRST

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## BAPTIST CHURCH

October 2017

Dear CV First Family,

I know I am preaching to the choir when I say that this has been a trying season from the Lord, filled with many ups and downs. For my family and me, this has been especially pronounced both personally and corporately at our church. We have wrestled through changes at every level: changes in ministry plans and leadership structures; changes in my role here at the church; not to mention the changes brought on by the new life brought into our family when Abigail was born in June. One of the most difficult parts of this season has been my wife, Amber's, fibromyalgia flaring up again. I know that our family is not unique in experiencing the ebb and flow of life during this season.

The good news for you and for me in a season like this is that our good God is still in control and using these circumstances to work all things "together for the good of those who love Him" and that He uses these times to force us to lean into Him more than ever before. As I have leaned into God during this season and sought His face for how to best serve Him and this church and my family, He has been gracious in speaking to me through His Word and godly counsel and the circumstances He has sovereignly brought into my life. This listening to the Lord has led us to the incredibly difficult decision to step down from my current full-time role as Family Pastor at CV First effective October 23, 2017. As we listened to the Lord, we arrived at this decision for two reasons.

First and foremost, as a husband and father, my primary role is to love my family well and to be there for them in ways that point them to the Lord. My role as it currently stands has not allowed me to be there and love my family in the meaningful way that God would have me with our unique needs and circumstances. As a leader, the best gift I can give is to model loving my family well and I wouldn't be serving anyone by sacrificing my family on the "altar of ministry." The second reason is structural at our church. As we have gone through this reflective process of working with the Goehner Group, it has crystallized for me that our leadership structure is not setup in a position for me to best serve our church from within the team in its current state. I desire deeply to love the Lord and serve this church as effectively as possible and the Lord has led me to best do that by stepping out of the Leadership Team at this time.



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With that said, I wanted to be clear on a couple things. First and foremost, I will be staying on staff part-time to oversee the Youth Ministry. Secondly, Amber and I are dearly committed to this church, and looking to continue to serve this church in the best way possible. We are following the Lord's leading as we make this decision, and we have the support of the Board and Staff as we make this decision. The leadership is exploring many possibilities for the best way to serve our children going forward. We will update you as soon as possible on that.

As we proceed with this decision, we covet your prayers as I return to my prior full-time role in the workforce. This transition won't be easy, but we are committed to honoring the Lord and obeying His calling on our life. We invite you to join us in making this passage our prayer:

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

In Christ,

Daniel Ennis