



Church Family,

Our church leaders continue to prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance in moving forward in wisdom and faith. As you know, the CDC recently noted that fully vaccinated persons may resume pre-pandemic activities without wearing masks. The guidance from the CDC regarding unvaccinated persons remains unchanged.

We know that many in our FPC flock have been fully vaccinated. We know that COVID-19 cases in our particular community are significantly declining. And we know that vaccines are readily available for those ages 12 years and older in our community. We praise Almighty God for these blessings!

Therefore, beginning this Sunday, May 23rd, we are modifying our Guidelines for Gathering in the following ways:

1. Those of us who are fully vaccinated and comfortable not wearing masks, will no longer need to mask during worship, congregational singing or group gatherings.
2. Those of us who are more comfortable continuing to wear masks and socially distance should continue to do so.
3. Although we will not be seating folks at a distance on the lower levels of the Sanctuary and King Hall, we will reserve the balcony and track seating for those who prefer more distanced seating. Our Ushers are happy to assist you in this.
4. Knowing that our children under the age of 12 are not eligible for vaccines at this time, we will continue to wear masks, as appropriate, in the nursery and children's ministry areas.
5. Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer continue to be available across our campus. Our custodial team will continue to sanitize each gathering space following each event.
6. Any event with food or beverages will, for now, continue to have such served by masked and gloved servers, i.e., no 'self-service.' We will continue to make use of individually packaged food and beverage items as appropriate.
7. We continue to prioritize hospitality to all who join us. And we continue to extend grace to one another as we make our way through these challenging times.

It is our prayer that these modifications align with the needs of our congregation. In this ever-changing landscape, guidelines from CDC and others continue to shift and change. Our church leaders strive to remain informed of these, while viewing them through the lens of faith and wisdom. Praise be to God for his lovingkindness, grace, and providential care!

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus,

*Reverend Bill Pardue, Senior Pastor*

*Phyllis Pemerton, EDO*