

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO COVID-19
SAFETY MEASURES DURING IN-PERSON WORSHIP/MEETINGS**

Heretofore, the FPCGV Task Force for Reopening has advised the Session on Covid-19 safety measures reflective of CDC guidance and local government recommendations to protect the health of both our congregation and surrounding communities. We were able to move to optional masking during in-person worship and gatherings for a time when county statistics of viral spread and hospitalization rates evidenced consistent decline, only to have to return to mandatory indoor masking and social distancing with the rampant spread of the delta variant.

The FPCGV Task Force for Reopening continues monitoring established county Covid-19 statistics and developments, and met recently concerning the recent steady drop in the spread of both the wild and delta variants. The team concluded that it is time, once again, to begin cautiously dialing back our in-person worship virus safety measures. Many of these changes correlate to a strong desire to bring live singing back to the choir and the congregation in time for the holidays. These looser safety measures are based on the premise that many of those attending in-person worship are fully vaccinated, with the caveat that should the virus surge again in the future to dangerous levels, we will need to revert to our more conservative safety measures of requiring in-person masking and social distancing.

Loosened in-person worship/meeting Covid-19 safety measures will be observed as of Sunday, Nov. 14th and are detailed as follows:

1. The choir will resume singing live during worship, unmasked and socially distanced.
2. Congregational masking will be optional during in-person worship, with the following parameters in place:
 - a. Those who wish to sing unmasked will be seated, socially distanced from one another, in the front quadrant of pews directly in front of the choir.
 - b. Masking will be optional among the rest of the socially distanced congregation seated in the sanctuary.
 - c. All are welcome to sing softly with a mask on.
 - d. If you are regularly around children, who may not be fully vaccinated until Christmas, please continue to wear a mask during in-person worship/meetings.
 - e. If you are regularly around anyone who is not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask during in-person worship/meetings.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that Covid-19 statistics will continue to support further relaxation of safety measures in our gatherings. Please bear in mind, however, that medical experts advise that we may not reach that goal of Covid-19 being considered endemic, rather than pandemic for another year or two. We may continue to see spikes and surges pop up here and there that will require local responses to regain control of the spread of the virus.

The FPCGV Reopening Task Force thanks you all for your efforts to share the love of Christ for all by continuing to take measures to protect those most vulnerable to this devastating virus.