

Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

The Council has approved the latest proposal from the When and How Team. We have reviewed the CDC's latest recommendation to wear masks for indoor gatherings regardless of vaccination status when in communities with Substantial and High spread of Covid. Within Scott County we are currently considered High Transmission or spread and have seen a rapid increase in cases; likely due to the Delta Variant.

Unfortunately, we have come to the conclusion that at this time we need to return to wearing masks at all indoor gatherings. We also recommend putting a pause on indoor coffee hour, and luncheons. In addition to the When and How Team's monthly meeting, we will also check the Level of Community Transmission (Low-High) with the CDC on the 1st and 15th so that we may adjust accordingly.

We hope these changes will only be needed for a short period of time. It is fair to say that most, if not all of us, are pretty tired of Covid and the mental calculations of what is an acceptable risk. It is important for us to remember why we do what we do. We are asking that we all wear masks as an act of Christian love for our neighbor. In wearing masks we can do our part to protect the most vulnerable and ensure that we are not contributing to the spread in our community. If we act now, we may be able to prevent the need for more mitigation measures.

This plan below was approved on August 17th and will go into effect on August 28th.

Ministry Guidelines: Caring For Our Community During Covid

Given the continued rise of Covid cases, the strength of the Delta Variant to spread more rapidly, and the latest CDC Recommendations, we will care for our community by doing the following:

Masks:

- We will require masks at all indoor gatherings at Grace.

Meals, Coffee Hour, Selling of items:

- At this time, we are putting a pause on indoor coffee hours and meals. Folks may still sell items in PBH and we still encourage folks to meet and visit.

Other Mitigation steps:

- Currently the above changes are the total of our mitigation efforts. We will continue to meet in person, sing, and have Holy Communion. Our hope is that if we are able to do our part in reducing the spread in our community now, we might be able to help protect our neighbor and prevent the need for further interventions.