

Dove Community,

Our Covid Reopening Team gathered again last night to further discuss what is happening around us in the community concerning Covid-19, and what our response to it should be. The Delta variant, which is highly transmissible, is growing in our community, county, and state at alarming rates. We met last week as a team and wrote a letter to strongly encourage you to wear a mask when you attend worship services at Dove.

Because of the information that we now have, and in continued guidance with the CDC, **we will be reinstating a mask requirement for all church gatherings and activities. All who join us for worship, committees, groups, and classes. At this time, we will require that masks always be worn while on campus.**

In worship, we will continue to utilize the welcome desk as you enter for attendance and check-in, the collection baskets at the entrance of the Sanctuary will be available, the individual communion cups, and we will be resetting the chairs in the sanctuary to encourage social distancing where it is appropriate. We will continue to sing in worship, while we wear masks.

As we discussed our options last night, we recognized that so many of you have been diligent in not only care for yourselves and your families, but your selfless choice to wear the mask is an act of putting others ahead of yourself. That is the example that Christ place before us and asked us to emulate (Philippians 2:1-11). For that, we thank you. We thank you for being the backbone of this church, serving at times when it is uncomfortable to do so.

As a part of this decision, in consultation with our choir directors, we will be pushing back the start of our choirs until a later date. We understand that this is also a disappointment to many, but in the effort to mitigate the potential spread of the virus, we believe this is our best course of action.

Again, it seems there have been no easy roads to go down in this past year. Each challenge has required critical conversations, prayer, and contemplation. Yet, we remain confident that even when the moments life seems most unclear, God is still our guiding light. We will continue our ministries and work in the community faithfully, and we will continue to adapt to meet the needs of our community.

Please also remember that any Sunday that you can't join us on campus, you are invited to join us online in worship at 9:30AM for our livestreaming services.

The entire Reopening Team thanks you for your support, your prayers, and your faithfulness.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave