



# United Church of Christ, Congregational

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Church Family,

June 2, 2021

With the number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. declining, we are getting closer to a return to normal for vaccinated people. Recently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that if you have been vaccinated you do not need to wear face masks indoors, except in certain situations. Face masks are still recommended in hospitals and long-term care facilities, planes, trains, and other forms of public transportation. Please keep in mind, masks may be required by other federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws.

At its May 27, 2021 meeting, Council approved the Reopening Team's recommendation to make the wearing of masks at worship services optional for those that are fully vaccinated. **This change is effective Sunday, June 6, 2021.** If you have not been vaccinated, you should continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We understand that having different guidelines at various places you go may be confusing, but we are a congregation that serves God and each other as a community. We must trust each other to stay safe. Our decision to relax the mask mandate at church was made based on data about how COVID-19 is spreading, including state and county public health information.

Additionally:

- We will continue to hold the 8:15 service in the Sanctuary to allow for social distancing for those who are not vaccinated.
- We will continue to leave windows and doors open to promote air circulation.
- Online worship continues to be an option for those who feel more comfortable worshipping from home.

Throughout this pandemic we've all made changes to stay safe and healthy. As we slowly ease back to normal, it remains crucial that we continue to get as many people vaccinated as possible and wear masks in some situations to protect the vulnerable in our communities. Thank you for your patience and understanding, we can't wait until COVID-19 is behind us. Stay safe and Healthy!

Blessings,

Matt Yates, Moderator

Maureen Walker

Paul DeSario, Ph.D., MPH, RS – Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Suzanne Kanner, BSN, RN – Medina County Health Department

Stephanie Manhoff, BSN, RN – Medina County Health Department

Rob Wilder, MD