



Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield
SENIOR PASTOR

May 19, 2021

Friends,

What a long way we've come in the past several months! We are once again worshipping in the sanctuary, conducting meetings in-person and gathering in small groups for study and fellowship. Pastors are able to visit our members in the hospital and at retirement communities. Some of the things we've missed for months are returning. Thanks be to God!

While we are not at the end of this pandemic journey, we are surely seeing that we will get to the other side of it, hopefully soon. We want to assure you that our staff, Session and the COVID Task Force are prayerfully and judiciously discerning what is safest in our setting. The COVID Task Force met to discuss the new CDC recommendations and Governor Cooper's relaxing of state mandates. As we have said before, we want to make our decisions in light of what is best for the most vulnerable in our congregation and enact protocols that contribute to the health of our entire community. Therefore:

- We are expanding seating capacity in the sanctuary. On May 30 we will move to one worship service at 10 am. We will be having lemonade on Greene Street following the service.
- Registration will no longer be required for worship, and you may enter through any of the sanctuary doors. If you do not yet feel comfortable or are unable to be in person with us the livestream option will continue to be available.
- We will continue to require masks in the sanctuary for all worship services, including funerals and weddings. Given that these are gatherings of larger groups and we want to be mindful of those in our midst who may not be vaccinated (including our children) or who may be especially susceptible to illness, masking is both the safe and faithful choice.
- Masks will not be required in small group meetings when everyone is vaccinated. It will be at the discretion of the group leader to make this determination. Groups will be asked to wipe down surfaces after their meetings.
- When moving from one part of the building to another, we ask you to wear a mask.
- Adult Sunday School classes that wish to resume meeting on the church campus may do so. (Contact Tim Millisor if your class would like to meet this summer: tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4793).

We know that this has been a challenging and at times frustrating process. We all long to throw open the doors of the church, hug one another and mingle around the coffee pot. We aren't there yet. However, following these safety measures will get us to that point sooner rather than later.

Thank you for your patience, your prayers, and your faithfulness. We promise to be responsive, transparent, and honest, communicating any changes as soon as possible. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us.

Grace and peace,

Anne

Anne Brown
Task Force co-chair

Wells

Wells Brabham
Task Force co-chair

Neil

Neil Dunnivant
Executive Pastor

Jill

Jill Duffield
Senior Pastor