



REV. JILL DUFFIELD
SENIOR PASTOR

November 12, 2021

Friends,

As the leaves turn color and fall to the ground, we are reminded that while the calendar moves forward, there are seasons that return without fail year after year and God is in control of all time. We are excited to be embarking on the liturgical season of Advent with the ability to meet in person for worship, sing corporately and resume many cherished traditions. The thought of a sanctuary filled with people holding their little light aloft on Christmas Eve brings great joy. Considering where we were this time last year, we have an embarrassment of riches for which to praise God this year.

The COVID Task Force continues to meet regularly. In recent weeks we met to discuss the situation in our community as it relates to our church. The goal expressed by the Session is to do whatever we can to continue to be as open as possible. The leaders of the congregation are keenly aware of the critical importance of our being able to be together for worship, Church school, youth programs and so much more. We are also committed to caring for the least of these, the most vulnerable among us, and in so doing, love our neighbors as ourselves.

Our two goals are: 1. Staying open and 2. Protecting the least of these. Given these ends and taking into account the fact that Guilford County continues to be in the red, an area of high transmission, we will continue through Advent and Christmas to follow our current protocols. As recommended by the CDC we will continue to mask indoors, requiring masks whenever we are in the church building, social distancing will continue to be observed and we will not be able to consume food or drinks inside.

We recognize these protocols come with challenges, maybe even inconveniences, but we trust that they are allowing us to remain open and keep our members, all of them, as safe as we possibly can. We've run the race with faith to date and we prayerfully intend to continue to do so until our COVID Task Force can at long last be dismissed with thanks!

We hope these small sacrifices on our part will demonstrate Christ's love to all and everyone will know that they are welcome here. Thank you for your ongoing support and faithfulness. It is a gift to be the Body of Christ in this place.

Grace and peace,

Anne Brown and Wells Brabham, Task Force co-chairs

Doug Shaw, Jeffery Hatcher, Jill Duffield, Neil Dunnivant