



Grace United Methodist Church

13406 West Lake Road, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

*Allison LeBrun
Pastor*

*Church: (440) 967-5206
Email: pastor@vermiliongrace.com*

May 20, 2021

People of Grace,

As your pastor and a member of our Safe Start team, we have made many difficult decisions over the past year plus and while they were hard, and sometimes unpopular, choices, we truly believe we have been faithful in our commandments to love God and love neighbor as self. We have done our best to put the health of our congregation, our community, and the most vulnerable among us first.

We ask that you help us in this effort and, if you have not yet already been vaccinated, and are medically able, to prayerfully consider it. Vaccine hesitancy is understandable, especially as misinformation is rampant online. We urge you to turn to your county health departments and personal physicians for information. We also hope that you would pray about any fear or hesitancy over the vaccine. Getting vaccinated not only protects yourself but it protects the most vulnerable among us: the immunocompromised, those unable to be vaccinated, and children. This is a concrete way that we can work to make our community safer and put others before self.

As benchmarks shift, state and national recommendations change, and vaccinations come in to play, it is with hopeful optimism, erring on the side of love, that we are making the following policy changes:

Meetings & Building Use

- We strongly encourage small groups and committees to hold outdoor meetings! As summer arrives the weather is beautiful and we have wonderful outdoor facilities. Those gathered should still practice social distancing. Masks may be removed if everyone in the group is vaccinated and agrees to mask removal. If even one person prefers to have masks on, please show them love by keepings yours on as well.
- As a back-up, meetings can also take place in the building. Temperature checks and sign-ins are no longer required. While in the building, we ask those gathered to leave space between households and to wear a mask while in the building, regardless of vaccination status.
- All meetings, whether indoor or outdoor, should extend a Zoom option, to include those who, due to whatever reasons, are unable or unready to join a group in person.
- Any event or activity scheduled to be inside should be distanced and masked.
- If anyone has any symptoms of Covid-19 or is not feeling well, they should not participate in meetings and either spend their time caring for their health or joining via Zoom if they wish.

Continued on back



Worship by the Water

- While we are all eager to see each other, worship with each other, and, for some, hug each other, we do ask that different households distance from each other. It's important to remember while you may feel comfortable hugging or shaking hands again, others may not. Respect the distance of others and always ask before coming into another's space.
- As we meet for our summer Worship by the Water service, vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear masks. We do ask unvaccinated individuals to please wear a mask.
- An individual may also wear a mask to signal to others that they would prefer to keep their distance. Please show love for them by respecting their wishes.
- The Worship by the Water service will be livestreamed and if anyone feels any symptoms of Covid-19 or is not feeling well, they should participate in the Worship by the Water service online or rest.

Office Hours

- Sueellen will be resuming in-building office hours on Fridays from 9:30AM to 2:30PM starting Friday, May 28th. More days will be added as summer progresses.
- Please wear a mask while in the building.
- Pastor Allison will also be resuming some office hours and is available to meet by appointment.

Worship in the Sanctuary

- With hopeful optimism, erring on the side of love, our goal is re-enter the sanctuary for worship on September 12, 2021. Guidelines will be forthcoming closer to that date.

We look forward to a fruitful and joyous summer worshipping and meeting together in God's beautiful creation! We continue to pray for the health and holistic well-being of each of you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Allison & The Safe Start Team

