



Grace United Methodist Church

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March 27, 2022 – Covid policy update

Dear Friends of Grace,

As of Sunday, March 27, 2022, masks will no longer be mandatory for in-person worship or small group gatherings at Grace United Methodist Church.

Community Covid-19 levels in both Erie and Lorain county are both “Low” as defined by the CDC. Their recommendation for indoor mask use in counties with low levels is “Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk.”

(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>)

For some this news may be met with great joy. For some, whose personal or familial level of risk is higher than others, it may be met with some trepidation. **That is why our recommendation at Grace will be “Mask As You Wish” - and please respect the decision and safe distancing of those who continue to mask for their own personal health or the health of loved ones.**

Please continue to monitor yourself for cold and flu symptoms before coming to worship. Even if it’s not Covid, it’s important to do this to care for one another. Remember, sharing is caring...except with germs! Our online worship will continue to be an option for those who need to worship from home. If you don’t have online access and are sick, truly, God understands. Get some rest and care for your body and soul in that way!

We hope and pray that the worst of the pandemic is already behind us. And we also acknowledge that until there is worldwide vaccine equity, there may be other variants, other spikes, and future circumstances where we will need to ask the church to mask again. Don’t throw them away just yet!

We’re proud that The United Methodist Church, through UMCOR and UNICEF, has a “Love Beyond Borders” campaign to provide Covid-19 vaccinations globally. We supported this mission as our Noisy Bucket offering in January. If you ever feel called to give to this global campaign, just write “UMCOR/Vaccines” on the memo line and Grace will get it where it needs to go to help this important cause.

You can also do your part here locally by getting your vaccinations, staying up to date on boosters, and lovingly encouraging those who are vaccine hesitant. If it’s been awhile since you’ve worshiped with us at Grace, know that you are always welcome in our caring and joyous Christian community. The choir is singing, the Word is being proclaimed, hymns are being sung, and bread is being shared over coffee fellowship!

Sincerely,

Pastor Allison & The Safe Start Team