

June 16, 2021

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

Ever since we reopened the church on May 30th, the number of church family attending the service has been growing each Sunday. The joy that filled the sanctuary is greater than ever. Now as things are moving along, and we have the new guidelines from CDC, the question often get raised is regarding the use of the masks in the sanctuary. Can we make the masks optional for those fully vaccinated?

I do agree that masks are uncomfortable to wear for an hour and some of you have health conditions that wearing a mask can cause other problems. And I understand that more and more places are moving away from requiring masks. So it's reasonable to raise the question.

Last night, the Council had a long discussion on this and other matters related to the reopening. And the leaders decided to require masks until the end of June and revisit it on June 29th for the month of July. We want to watch carefully the trend in the community as the area has the increased numbers of out of state visitors. Also, since we are singing hymns while sitting closely to one another, wearing a mask is the safest way to protect the most vulnerable ones among us—those with compromised immune system, the unvaccinated, children under 12, etc.

As you know, what sets apart the church from other places is our calling to care for the most vulnerable among us. At this point, the balance between comfort and safety is a delicate one, and the decision was made out of love and care to make the church a safe place for all who want to worship in the sanctuary. Wearing a mask is a sign of our love and care for others weaker than us.

I am deeply grateful for the leaders who wrestled with this subject and came up with an agreement in unity. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate through this still unknown path. I continue to hope for the greater freedom as conditions allow.

May the strength and peace of God surround you and guidance of God be with us.

In gratitude,

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