

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
Ephesians 3:20–21

June 8, 2021

Dear Good Hope family,

We thank the Lord that He is building up His people even through the trials of this past year. He has provided ways for us to safely meet as one body for worship, first virtually, then in person outdoors, and later to a limited extent indoors. He has enabled us to interact with one another, though with frustrations at the limitations and shortcomings of seeing and hearing one another as we are masked and distanced.

We now rejoice that in God's providence there are signs of the pandemic lessening. [Prevalence of COVID-19](#) in our area has dropped to low levels and, in response, [Governor Hogan](#) has removed distancing and masking restrictions that would affect indoor worship. Vaccines are widely available and the [CDC considers it safe](#) for vaccinated people to return to normal activities without masking or distancing.

We therefore believe it wise and good to move to a new phase in our worship and fellowship together, as outlined in the guidelines below and **beginning on Sunday, June 13.**

- A. **A single in-person worship service will begin at 10:30 AM** with two options for seating, which you may choose between based on your circumstances and preferences.
 1. In the **sanctuary, masking is optional, seating is by your choice** in chairs at normal spacing, and ventilation is enhanced with the HVAC fan and open windows and entry doors. We **strongly recommend** that all unvaccinated persons ages 5 and up wear masks. Of course, any others may also choose to wear masks.
 2. In the **fellowship hall** (with a simultaneous livestream of the sanctuary on its TV), **masking is required, seating is distanced**, ventilation is enhanced with the HVAC fan and open windows and entry doors, and the vestibule door will remain closed. To provide distancing between households (six feet between rows and five feet between seats in a row), seats will be assigned based on reservations made at the designated website by 9 PM on Friday before the service.
- B. The lower level classrooms are available for families to use as **cry rooms**.
- C. We recommend that everyone **bring a mask**, to facilitate easy fellowship before and after worship with brothers and sisters who have elected to wear them.
- D. The worship service will also be made **available live via Zoom** (at 10:30 AM), in case you choose to stay at home, as might be wise to protect the health of yourself or others.
- E. **Please stay home** and join us online if you or members of your household do not feel well.

Join us in prayer as we move forward together and endeavor to love the Lord and love one another. In particular, let us love and encourage our brothers and sisters, recognizing that each of us has differing circumstances and concerns which may lead us to make different decisions regarding vaccinations, masking, and distancing. Pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and for wisdom and understanding as we seek the Lord's will.

In His service and for His glory,
The Session of Good Hope Presbyterian Church