

Dear Friends in Christ,

As beloved children of God, we take our command to love our neighbor seriously (Matthew 22:39). This is what sets the church apart from all other organizations and institutions. As the apostle Paul writes, “‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other” (1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

We give thanks to God that the pandemic continues to decline like we have not seen. As a community of faith we will respond by taking yet another step toward getting back to normal as we head into our fall programming year. The love of our neighbor has always been our guide, and our congregation has struggled to live and to make decisions that unfold the love of our neighbor while considering the most vulnerable among us.

Beginning June 12, our COVID-19 Policy is changing so that when indoors, face coverings are optional for people who are fully vaccinated, with the exception of Saturday worship at 5pm. Please note, unvaccinated children and adults should still have a face covering on when indoors. This standard follows current CDC guidelines. To provide a lower risk worship option for those who need it, face coverings will be required at our Saturday 5pm worship, which also will continue to be live-streamed.

We honor wearing face coverings as a sign of care for others. Some will wear a face covering because they are unvaccinated and some may wear a face covering for other reasons. “In humility, regard the value of others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4) As you gather with others for church business and other activities, if a person in the group asks for everyone to wear a face covering, please respond in the interest of others.

Also beginning June 12, there are a few other changes, for example, there will no longer be a sign-up process for worship. To review the entire policy, please visit our website, our Facebook, and by mail.

Thank you for being a part of this community. There has been a lot of loss, sadness, stress, frustration, anger, and other emotions throughout the pandemic, and yet God has been with us through it all. We invite you to join us for worship. We will continue to review our COVID-19 Policy at our monthly council meetings, and we welcome your feedback anytime as we continue to lean into our hope-filled future.

Blessings,  
Linda Golinghorst, President  
Pastor Carrie Lewis-LaPlante, Senior Pastor