



July 31, 2021

Greetings, Church!

A poetic line for when things go awry springs to mind: “The best laid plans of mice and men.” Though it has been 16 months since I sent two pandemic-related statements in a row, **the headlines literally changed overnight**. This is an addendum to the previous statement dated July 29, 2021.

Please wear your mask when you are on campus until further notice. We are returning to our previous mask policy, which is to wear a mask with the following exceptions: if you are working in your private office space alone, you are the only person in the building, or you are actively fulfilling a distanced speaking or singing leadership role in worship. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

Earlier this week, [the CDC released new guidelines](#) about wearing masks indoors, including for people who are fully vaccinated. The guidelines read in part, “To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.” On Tuesday, the [CDC data map](#) included 14 Minnesota counties as areas of substantial or high transmission. On Friday afternoon, it reflected 35 Minnesota counties, including Hennepin County where campus is located. The new data-driven CDC guidelines are encouraged by Hennepin County Public Health, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Annual Conference. We have and continue to look to these entities to guide our policies.

At this time, we are continuing forward with our phased regathering plan. To do this as safely as possible, your church is counting on you to comply with the mask policy. Some in our midst are ineligible for the vaccine, both adults and children, and safety is the top priority. **If you do not think you will be able to comply with the updated mask policy, I ask you to please continue worshipping from home, thank you.** We will continue to monitor the situation closely and update you as we can.

In yesterday’s statement, I reminded you that we have not thought of everything, regathering is an adjustment for everyone, and **the situation can always change**. On the eve of regathering for in-person worship as a church, we are facing these realities. Throughout it all, we have collectively been safety-focused, patient, and adaptable. When I next see you on campus, I will miss your smiles yet be glad to see your masks as you do your part to help keep others safe. And as we enter a new phase of regathering, I will be glad to see you on campus when you are ready. God bless you.

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY MORNING 2021 REGATHERING PHASES:

PHASE 0 - JUNE 6, 2021

Outdoor Worship: Jun. 13, Jul. 18



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 1 - AUGUST 1, 2021

Outdoor Worship: Aug. 8; Online-Only Worship: Sept. 5



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 2 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Update: Indoor Fellowship begins in Phase 2



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 3 - OCTOBER 3, 2021



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 4 - NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Online-Only Worship: Dec. 26



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups