



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

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www.mvpchurch.org

May 19, 2021

Dear Mount Vernon Family,

For more than one year our church has been on a wilderness journey. We took this journey because the people we entrust with our physical well-being- the medical and scientific community- advocated that we do so. This journey has not been easy. For some in our congregation, the coronavirus was a devastating reality, for others it has been a constant nuisance. It has left a mark on us all, and shaped our faith going forward.

Today, however, I write what is hopefully the last “covid letter” you will receive from your church. Following the new guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control, your Church Session revised our covid protocols to reflect this new guidance.

Beginning on Sunday, May 23 at 11:00 a.m. the congregation of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church is invited to return to the sanctuary for worship. This will be appropriate as this Sunday is Pentecost, the day in which the church celebrates the formation of the church in the Book of Acts (2: 1-21). What I love about this passage is how the people spoke in different languages yet understood each other. In the near term, we ask that you live into that sentiment as we find ourselves speaking various languages in response to this pandemic.

Understanding such differences, you can be assured that we will keep doors open to ensure a maximum circulation of air, continue to utilize the air filtration system we purchased with the Mount Vernon School, and setup sections within the church narthex and sanctuary where people can worship with comfort as we ease into these new guidelines.

We will adhere to a “personal choice” policy regarding the wearing of masks during worship. Per the CDC, we do encourage you to wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated. We also strongly encourage, if you are able and have yet to do so, to get fully vaccinated. As a church, we have listened to the medical community, and we believe that getting vaccinated lives into the gospel proclamation to love both neighbor and self. We do understand that for some of you, for different reasons, getting the vaccine may not be feasible. We welcome you. If you have theological questions surrounding the vaccine, please come to talk to me, I am more than glad to speak with you and to share with you my vaccine experience.

We look forward to worshipping with you this coming Sunday. We will sing as a congregation for the first time since March, 2020 and we welcome you to begin meeting for Sunday school, youth group, small groups, and other activities on the church campus. Please also know that you no longer have to sign up to attend our worship services.

Throughout the summer- and a quick reminder, worship at MVPC from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend is at 10am- you will witness a gradual return to what we once considered normal ministry. We look forward to connecting or reconnecting either in person or online. You can always stay updated to any changes or events through our various platforms or by contacting the church office directly.

Grace and Peace,

Barrett