



## Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

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November 18, 2021

Dear Mount Vernon Family,

This coming Sunday during worship, I will update you regarding our current Covid-19 protocols. In advance of that, I am submitting to you this letter that will hopefully give context and clarity to where we see ourselves moving forward as a church.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, your Worship Ministry Team has largely adhered to the guidance recommended by the CDC and other respected health organizations. We know that adhering to these protocols has at times seemed laborious while for others they may have seemed not strict enough. We believe we have met the challenge of this pandemic for our unique context here at MVPC.

As we move forward, the consensus is that the coronavirus will be endemic, meaning it will be something that is present with us in perpetuity. Because of this, our response to this virus will continue to be fluid and I suspect notes like this will arrive in your mail or inbox from time to time.

Transitioning from this pandemic reality to endemic reality, the church will:

Advocate that all eligible people receive a Covid-19 vaccine

Advocate that you speak with your doctor about what is best for you and your family

Speak to the pastoral staff if you have any theological/spiritual questions about the vaccine/public health

Recommend masks for indoor gatherings, but will, at this time, no longer strongly encourage them

To this final point regarding masks, I want to encourage you to “love thy neighbor.” If you feel the need to social distance, please do so. If you are sitting next to someone wearing a mask and you are not, simply ask them if they are comfortable having you sit there. Friends, we are at a threshold, and in order for us to cross together, we must love thy neighbor. The beauty of our sanctuary is that you can spread out and still be in community with one another. Let us take advantage of that as we continue to move forward.

We look forward to worshipping with you - either in-person or online- especially as we ring in the Advent and Christmas season. As always, reach out should you have any questions or concerns.

Grace and Peace,

*Barrett*