

June 2, 2021

Friends and Members of First Presbyterian Church of Normal,

On Sunday, May 30, our Reopening Task Force shared an exciting update regarding the protocols and procedures here at First Pres in response to the recent guidelines offered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). These changes were carefully discerned by our reopening task force and then offered to our session of elders, the elected leaders of our congregation, who affirmed and voted to unanimously approve the proposal crafted by the reopening task force. We want to ensure that everyone who calls this place their church home is aware of these changes and we pray that you are encouraged and excited for this next season of ministry and presence that God has afforded us.

First, we want to thank all of you. The session of elders, reopening task force, and Pastor Matt are all exceedingly thankful for your patience and diligent concern for others as we navigated a truly unprecedented period of time. The precautions and protocols that were implemented at First Pres throughout the pandemic were remarkably effective due to both the thoughtful discernment of our leaders and the compassionate consideration of our members. Thank you for your kindness, concern, and grace. They have been gifts of both safety and celebration.

The specific items shared by the Reopening Task Force update on May 30 are as follows:

- Beginning this Sunday, June 6, fully vaccinated* individuals will no longer be required to wear a mask during the worship service or any other activity within the church facility.
 - * Fully vaccinated, as defined by the CDC, refers to individuals who are at least two weeks removed from the second or only dose of one of the three approved vaccines. *
- Church leadership is asking any individuals who are not fully vaccinated to continue to wear a mask within the church facility.
- Individuals are, of course, still welcome to wear a mask based on their comfort level even if fully vaccinated.
- We will rely on the integrity and honesty of each individual to uphold these new guidelines.
- Individuals will no longer be asked to complete self-certification before entering the church facility.
- The Great Hall will remain a designated space for masks and social distancing during the Sunday morning worship service regardless of vaccination status.
- All outside groups renting or using space within the church facility will be expected to adhere to these guidelines.
- All staff members of First Presbyterian Church of Normal are fully vaccinated.

We know that these encouraging changes might also bring about questions. Pastor Matt, our session of elders, and our reopening task force are all available to discuss any clarifications, concerns, or questions you might have regarding these new changes. It is with great joy and hopefulness that we can continue to be united in our love for God, our love for one another, and our love for our neighbors and to be a people following Jesus.

With joy and thankfulness,

Pastor Matt Wilcox

The Session of Elders:

Teresa Herbert
William Schaup
Matt Stombaugh
Marilea White
Doug Schwalm
Sabrina Smith
Kurt Swearingen
Pat Warren
Andrea Doss
Eric Jome
Scott Elder
Linda Sabick

The Reopening Task Force:

Martin Hobbs
Cyndy Diederich
Elizabeth Hoskins
Kurt Swearingen
Rob Kelley
Leslie Henderson
Dana Sutton
Jeff Stout