

WPC Family and Friends,

The past 14 months have presented many challenges for all of us. We have been required to make adjustments, give up some preferences, and demonstrate patience when things have not gone according to our personal plans. Let me say thank you to each one of you. I think that as a church we have persevered through the trial of COVID with remarkable unity. Does that mean everyone has always agreed with decisions the officers have made? No. In fact, the officers themselves have had significant debate over our decisions. But at the end of the day we have all been guided by the biblical principle of submission. As leaders we pledge to submit to our brethren in the Lord and as members we pledge to submit to the government and discipline of the church. I'm encouraged to have seen this and I hope that you will be too.

The officers believe that the time has come in the life of our church to make a return to pre-COVID normal protocols. Effective **Sunday, June 6th**, all COVID protocols will be lifted for all ministries at WPC with the following exceptions:

- The balcony will remain a mask and social distance required space during worship services.
- The overflow seating in the fellowship hall will change to a mask and social distance required space during the worship services.

Outside of these two exceptions, **all protocols will be lifted**. That means that all pews on the main floor of the worship space will be open and available for seating; we will no longer dismiss row by row; the offering plates will be passed again; the way we serve the Lord's Supper will return to normal; masks will no longer be required of nursery workers; children's and adult Sunday School classes will go back to their former classrooms; Sunday School start time will revert to 9:00AM; those serving in the food ministry will no longer be required to wear masks; etc.

Please understand that by lifting all COVID protocols we are not saying that COVID has disappeared or that you cannot get sick from it. What we are saying is that with the wide availability of a vaccine for any who desire it, the risk level to our church and in our community is extremely low at this point. We always maintained that any safety protocols we put in place would be temporary, and we believe that now is the time to retire those protocols. We would still encourage you to stay home if you are sick so as not to spread whatever sickness you may have.

Dear ones, the Lord has been extremely kind to us throughout this trying time. He has blessed our church with over 50 new members during a time when many (myself included) thought the church would shrink. He has refined our faith as it has been put to the test. He has also increased our yearning for fellowship with one another; a fact seen by observing how many people now stick around after worship to fellowship together rather than rushing off after the service. Let us be grateful to the Lord for his goodness and let us pray that he will continue to use WPC to make disciples for his glory!

Your Pastor & Friend,

Chad Watkins