

## To The Members of St. John's United Methodist Church

As most of you know by now, yesterday the CDC made a significant announcement with changes regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing. According to the CDC, if you are fully vaccinated, you are no longer required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors. Also, in accordance with the announcement yesterday, the restriction of social distancing has been lifted. The leadership of our church made the decision to follow the regulations set by the CDC. The Governor of our state has already publicly lifted restrictions regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing. We feel, as of May 14, 2021, that masks and social distancing will no longer be required while in worship or at other church-related activities. While the CDC has made this change this does not mean that all individuals are comfortable with the decision. Regardless of their state of vaccination, many will still choose to wear a mask and social distance.

Most importantly, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we ask that everyone be respectful, kind, and non-judgmental of the decisions of each person/family within our congregation and in the community as they watch how we treat and love one another.

If vaccinated persons choose to wear a mask....that is OK

If unvaccinated persons choose not to receive a vaccination....that is OK

If parents choose for their child (ren) to wear face coverings....that is OK

If you are not comfortable returning to in person worship and ministry activities yet....that is OK

If you or others choose not to hug, shake hands, fist/elbow/ankle bump, or have any physical contact yet....that is OK

The variety of approaches will be vast among our congregation, leadership, and community. As we move forward, things will change throughout this process. We ask for patience as we make this transition. Beginning this Sunday, May 16, 2021, we will not require mask or social distancing during our worship services.

**We are asking you to be respectful of each other's boundaries and limitations.**

**We hope to see you soon,**

**St. John's Leadership Team**