

Sunday, June 13, 2021

On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Taylor County Health Department announced that as of June 7, 2021, over 53% of Adams County residents ages 18 and over have received their first COVID-19 vaccine and that of the total population of Adams County, 43.2% have received at least their first dose. With that information, added to data that had already been collected, the Session voted to **lift and remove all requirements regarding the COVID-19 precautions and policies effective Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

This includes the requirement that people wear masks while inside the building. Masks will no longer be required. We will be shifting back to our regular way of serving communion which is by intinction (going forward, receiving a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup) and the individual, prepackaged communion elements will still be available for those who wish to continue to use those. This decision also means we are lifting the requirement of using no-touch alternatives for passing of the peace. You may pass the peace in the way that best suites you.

As we make these shifts, we recognize that each person may be at a different comfort level of gathering in larger groups. Therefore, we encourage everyone to communicate openly about their level of comfort. Asking questions such as, “would you like a hug?” or “is it alright if I sit this close to you?” are more than appropriate during this time of continued transition. Please do not make assumptions about what another person may or may not be comfortable with.

Finally, we want to thank each and every one of you for your support and flexibility during this time. The effective date of lifting of these precautions and policies, June 15<sup>th</sup>, marks 15 months since decisions were first made to adapt worship and then to close the building in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that it’s been a challenging 15 months and we want to thank you for your continued commitment to your community of faith—even in the midst of all those challenges. As leaders, we know mistakes were made as we sought God’s will and what was best for the entire community. We also believe we did the best we could with the information we had, and we trust and hope that God’s grace and forgiveness will abound as we seek to continue to move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with Pastor Jessica or one of the Session members (Betsy Akin, Megan Boswell, Doug Leonard, Ken Pangburn, Cindy Peterson, Sue Selby, and Nancy Turner).

We thank you again for your continued support and prayers.