



March 9, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Central Presbyterian Church:

At our March meeting last night, the Session made the following changes to our Covid protocols, effective immediately.

We are excited to announce the relaxing of the COVID protocols in light of dropping case numbers, test positivity, and hospitalizations in our area.

- Masking is now optional for all indoor activities. If you choose to wear a mask, we continue to strongly encourage an N-95 or surgical mask. We also strongly encourage unvaccinated persons to mask. If you are not feeling well, PLEASE stay home and get better.
 - Please continue to social distance in the pews.
 - Out of respect for those who choose or need to continue wearing masks, our practice of passing the peace and sharing communion from our seats, as well as collecting the offering at the entrance to the sanctuary will not change.
 - Our Sunday School program will follow the same guidelines.
 - As we have been cautious in reopening our Nursery, we will have further information in the future.
- In terms of Coffee Hour following worship, the Board of Deacons will begin the program as they determine how to safely provide for this valued time together.
- During the week, masking is now optional in the Education Building. Our tenants may have other masking policies that will be honored in their spaces.

We recognize that there are people who cannot wait to remove masks along with others who will continue to mask. We need to be mindful that our youngest participants are not vaccinated and others may have health factors that mask wearing allows them to participate in our church's life and ministry in a safe and healthy manner. Our life together is defined by our desire to respect everyone.

We will continue to monitor cases and transmission levels and will relax or strengthen this guidance as health and safety protocols dictate. We are making decisions based upon the best information and recommendations from the CDC and state and local health officials. We are also guided by the best practices that are being recommended to church by our Denomination. We recognize that the Montclair Public Schools have done an excellent job of

monitoring and protecting students and staff. We intend to use the Public Schools for guidance as we move forward in terms of making changes to our COVID policies and procedures in light of future changes in the infection rates in Montclair and Essex County.

We want to acknowledge the diligent, and sometimes thankless efforts of our Reentry Task Force: Mark Johansen, Frederick Moulongo, Kim O'Hare, and Scott Osborne. We also appreciate your support and cooperation in keeping our church family healthy and safe. Please contact the church if you have questions or need further clarification.

We look forward to our Lenten journey that we are taking together.

Blessings,

The Session of Central Presbyterian Church