

As you are probably aware the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that it is now safe for fully vaccinated people to gather outdoors as well as in most indoor settings without masks or physically distancing. These updated recommendations reflect growing confidence in the effectiveness of the vaccines and the significant decline in recent weeks of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The leadership team met Sunday afternoon to discuss how we will move forward at Martin UMC. We decided that going forward, wearing a mask and social distancing will be optional for those who are fully vaccinated.

Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to continue wearing masks and to maintain social distancing. In addition, we will reserve the right(west) side of the sanctuary, the section in front of the piano for those who choose to wear masks or for those who want to continue social distancing. If that section becomes full, we ask those who are physically able to overflow into the right side of the balcony.

The choir will follow the same guidelines regarding social distancing and masks and will soon begin participating again in Sunday worship.

Last but not least, all adults working with youth or children must be vaccinated or wear a mask.

We are thankful to announce this great news and ask each person to do their part as we strive to provide an environment that is safe. It has been a long 14 months and we ask for God's guidance as we chart our way to our new normal. May we show grace and patience toward one another as we move forward.

We also ask everyone's prayers for Lara, Travis, Erin, Michael and Meagan. As we learn more how we can provide help, we will reach out.

Love to all,

Lara Franklin, Sr. Pastor
Faiana Funaki, Associate Pastor
Doug Northup
Chickie Williams
Garry Hamilton
Debbie Bryant