

Dear Grace Family,

Like many of you, we have been longing for the day when we can gather together for worship in the Sanctuary. We are happy to tell you that day is not far off!

Following a plan developed by the reopening committee and approved by the Council, we are planning on beginning in-building worship with limited attendance beginning March 21. This is dependent upon remaining in unmitigated Phase 4 or better, and on individuals being willing to volunteer for greeting and ushering after having been trained on the new procedures.

### ***Changes to the Worship Services***

Please understand that services when we reopen will be different than pre-pandemic. We will continue to celebrate God's presence in our lives but the look and feel of Sunday worship will be different. These changes include:

<https://www.gracewoodstock.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2.18.21-General-Guidelines-for-Worship-in-the-Sanctuary-2-002.pdf>

### ***Our Responsibilities to Each Other***

Our primary goal is to keep our congregation, staff, volunteers, and visitors as safe as possible from exposure to COVID-19. We cannot do that unless everyone abides by these policies and procedures. Please view following these measures through the lens of love, honor, and respect for one another. For the time being, we ask you to commit to:

- Wearing a mask at all times if you are over two years old;
- Maintaining a six-foot distance from those outside your home or household at all times;
- **Pre-registering** for the service online or by calling the church office Monday through Thursday. Reservations will be taken for the following Sunday only. Once our capacity is reached, no more reservations will be taken. If your plans change, please notify the office to free up your spot. This will help us manage our seating limitations;
- Monitoring your health and **STAYING HOME** If you feel sick or think you might be or, if you believe you were exposed to the corona virus;
- Notifying the church office if you become sick or test positive for COVID-19. Your name will be kept confidential but, we will notify that service's attendees of possible exposure, if necessary;
- Using your best judgement as to whether you and your family can attend safely or should continue worshipping with us online.

Our church has weathered this pandemic with patience, ingenuity, and grace. We have endured self-quarantining, isolation, and the changes to so much in our day-to-day lives. And even though our facilities have been closed, our church has remained open. Thanks to our livestreaming and those who keep our Sunday services going, we have reached new people who would not normally come on Sunday and old friends who have moved away.

As we prepare for the day we reopen, we ask for your prayers, your patience, and your participation. Pray that we would have the people and resources we need in place. Be extra patient with one another as we wait and as we worship in different ways than what we are used to. Be ready to do your part by following these guidelines faithfully and treating one another with love, compassion, and grace. Consider helping out as well because we need people to help with ushering, greeting, and more.

In God's Grace,

Pastors and Council