

July 30, 2021

Dear JCUMC Family,

Our church leaders and pastors are very much aware of the recent rise in COVID-19 cases. Many of us have been directly impacted by the surge. I recently tested positive for COVID-19. I was vaccinated in March, yet still contracted the virus. My symptoms have been fairly mild, thanks to being vaccinated. Brandy and Paul are doing great, and, thankfully, have not shown any symptoms. However, my recent experience has made it abundantly clear that our community is still not out of the woods and we need to continue to be vigilant. Fulton, Forsyth and Gwinnett counties are all areas of substantial to high transmission at this time.

Our COVID Task Force has discussed what is before us. Our task force is made up of 20 trusted church leaders and staff members who represent various ages and groups within the church. I am grateful for their wisdom which has guided us throughout the pandemic. The task force has made the decision to follow recent CDC recommendations and return to a mask requirement for all persons (6 years old and up) within our facilities. Parents of children 5 and under should make a decision based on individual needs and abilities. The preschool will continue to follow their mask policies and procedures with regard to students. We will continue to monitor the status and keep you apprised as updates are available.

I know we have all enjoyed being “maskless” in worship and it is disappointing that we must wear them again. However, our time without masks should motivate us to do our part to prevent transmission and reduce current infection rates so that we can return to being mask free. In addition, our children under 12 do not yet have the option to be vaccinated. Until they do, we want to offer a safe way for families with children to be an active part of our church family. It is our responsibility as a church to protect them and other vulnerable members to the extent that we can, and masks are crucial to providing that protection.

I am as weary as anyone regarding the pandemic. Like many of you, my patience has been tested. But I believe God is faithful and can be trusted to see us through the rest of this challenging journey. As we continue to do our part to keep others safe, we are bearing witness to God’s great love and concern for the world.

Grace and Peace,  
Charley Reeb  
Senior Pastor  
Johns Creek United Methodist Church

PS – My family and I will be quarantining at home this Sunday, August 1st, but we look forward to seeing you next week! Rev. Allen will share a powerful message this Sunday. Don’t miss it!