



*We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...*

October 27, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown:

N.T. Wright, the gifted Bible scholar and author once wrote of the Lord's Prayer, *"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."* His insightful words give me a new way to think and pray about the priorities of God contained in the short lines of the Lord's Prayer. God's people exist to "colonize earth with the life of heaven." That's a crucial reminder to all of us as we continue life within the continuing challenges of the COVID pandemic. In all we do, from the words we speak, to the actions we take, to the attitudes we hold, let us bring the life of heaven to Moorestown.

At its October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, Session approved the following protocols for worship and indoor gatherings. These protocols take effect on Monday, November 1, 2021. The guidelines represent many careful hours of thought, conversation and prayer.

One of the important questions we've considered is: What's the metric used to measure standard of risk? Session has affirmed that the CALI score (COVID Activity Level Index which measures transmission risk for COVID) for Southwest New Jersey as published by the New Jersey Department of Health, will be the metric used to measure our COVID risk. The CALI scores are broken into the following scale: Low, Moderate, High and Very High. Since the score of "moderate" is the measure, we are currently BELOW the "high or substantial" risk of spread of COVID in our region.

Therefore, Session approved the following for indoor WORSHIP:

- 1). Masks optional for vaccinated adults. Masks recommended for unvaccinated adults, with all those 18 years of age or younger required to wear masks.
- 2). All singers in worship will be masked.
- 3). There will continue to be no congregational singing.
- 4). The sanctuary will be open seating, with social distancing when possible. People will be free to sit where they are comfortable.
- 5). Check-in, communion and offering collection practices will remain as current policy indicates.

**over**

For all other indoor meetings, Session approved:

- 1). Masks optional for vaccinated adults, recommended for unvaccinated adults. *If one or more participants are 18 years of age or under, ALL participants in the room will be required to wear masks (this includes Sunday School, youth group meetings).*
- 2). Participants in any choir rehearsal/concert will be required to wear masks while singing.
- 3). No food will be served indoors.

As we move ahead, the CALI score will be reviewed bi-weekly to monitor recent measurements. If indicators move to the “high” range, a special meeting of Session will be called to re-evaluate. Further, the Worship Committee is actively discussing creative and alternative ways to provide inclusive and hospitable worship for all persons.

Once more, I thank you for your loving support and considerate cooperation. Let’s continue to gather as we can for worship, study, and prayer.

There are two additional ways you can support the work of FPC Moorestown. First, if you haven’t yet completed your *Estimate of Giving* card for 2022, please do so today. Secondly, make room on your calendar for Rev. Wes Allen’s Installation service. It’s scheduled for Sunday, November 14 at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Stuart*

Stuart Spencer  
Pastor