

Dear friends of St. John's,

We are in the midst of a surge of COVID infections. The health department notes this is likely the omicron variant of the virus. We want you to be as safe as possible and to stay healthy. The Safety Task Force recommends that we stay the course with in-person worship but we understand if you prefer to worship using the Facebook livestream, which is also available as a recording sent on Mondays, or tuning into our Together In God television broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on WQOW.

If you attend in-person worship please wear a well-fitting mask. Please give your neighbors of other households the extra space of six feet when in the Gathering Area or Sanctuary. That means leaving open pew space in front of, behind of, and at your sides. We also encourage you to:

- Get vaccinated if you are not. The best protection against significant illness and death remains to be fully vaccinated and have a booster.
- If you have a sore throat, cough, runny nose or are sneezing, or you feel sick, stay home and get tested. This variant is VERY communicable.
- Always wear a well-fitting mask in public spaces and when you gather. It will help. At St. John's we are ordering *FDA approved masks that protect against the omicron variant. If you use cloth masks double masking is suggested.
- Protect the most vulnerable around you – the elderly, unvaccinated, and those with challenging health conditions

We will get through this time. We also want to work together so that we can once again see the virus at the low level of 15 cases a day or less.

* FDA approved mask such include KN95, KF94, or an N95 type masks. We will make some available to you once we receive them if you would like one at worship or in a small group setting at church. If you would like to contribute a small donation to help offset the costs of these masks, we welcome that, too, as they are more expensive to buy.

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news!"

Pastor Julie Brenden
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