



January 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

Bad news: COVID cases are spiking to new record highs.

Good news: Most cases caused by the Omicron variant are less severe.

Bad news: Hospitals are running at full capacity and beyond.

Good news: Scientists predict this spike in cases will be short-lived.

Are you exasperated with COVID, too? Enough! We are all weary, and I am COVID cranky! (Is there a vaccine for that?)

Seriously, I am tired of the constraints. However, I am totally committed to the safety of every member of our church family. So, we will continue to require masks inside our building and provide sections in the sanctuary and Rodney Chapel for social distancing during worship. Further, Sudie and I, plus Tony and the Westminster Choir, have traded our cloth masks for KN 95 masks.

Some of you may believe we are being overly cautious, but please keep in mind that we have vulnerable people in our midst who have a strong desire to be in worship despite the risk it brings. Wearing a mask is a minor inconvenience to bear when demonstrating our faithfulness to Jesus's command to love our neighbor.

I know I sound like a broken record on this, but I urge those who are not fully vaccinated or anyone with any cold or flu-like symptoms to stay home and worship via our livestreamed service.

Do young people even know what a "broken record" means? Does that fall into the same category as "hanging up the phone?" Oh well, anyone unsure of these phrases, please Google them. And, then, let's all say a prayer for patience and the determination to persevere.

Blessings,

Gregory Knox Jones
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff