

Dear Grace Family,

The Elders have been contacting all 175 families who are part of the Grace Family. One of the areas we have been asking about is related to returning to the Grace Church building for our worship gatherings on Sundays. The State Mask Mandate has led to the possibility of division *if we choose to make that our focus*. Let that not be our reality! The mask mandate does allow for some exceptions to wearing masks, and also rightly instructs us *not to ask people* their reasons for not wearing a mask. There are various allowed exceptions, including for those who are leading services up front, as well as for those with health reasons.

As a result of these conversations with the Grace Family, we are making one adjustment to our Sunday morning schedule beginning on September 6. The 10:45am worship service in the sanctuary will be designated as a "Strictly Mask Only" area. The fellowship hall will be available for anyone, including those who, due to exceptions to the mandate, choose not to wear a mask. The new schedule looks like this:

8:30 AM service: Seating will be *mask-wearing, along with exceptions*, in **both** the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

10:45 AM service: Seating will be *strictly mask-wearing* in the sanctuary, and *mask-wearing with exceptions* seating in the fellowship hall.

If you have safety concerns related to being in close proximity to those who may not be masked (for whatever reason), consider arriving a little late, so you can control how close you sit to others, and leave a bit early, to get out before the area gets crowded. Let us not allow the enemy to divert our attention away from the gospel and instead to who is wearing or not wearing masks. Regardless of your position on mask-wearing, we need to stay connected **relationally** with one another and give ourselves to our unified mission of worshiping our Great God and making disciples of Jesus Christ together. We need each other!

Discipleship classes (Sunday School) will begin on Sunday, September 13 at 9:45am. After surveying parents, we decided to move forward with our classes, AWANA, and youth groups. There are classes for all ages, Pre-K through Adults!

Praying,
The Elders of Grace Church

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We are a family of missionary servants who are making disciples!