UPDATED COVID PROTOCOL February 24th, 2022

The following is the results of the Covid Response Team Meeting held February 23rd.

It is clear that everyone is tired of this virus and its impact on our daily lives, how we move about, and how we gather. It was two years ago during Lent the world shut down. The fact that we are still wearing masks, encouraging vaccines, and observe safe gathering protocol is proof that Covid-19 has become part of our lives and isn't just going to go away.

As United Methodists, we strongly hold to John Wesley's Rule of Life – Do No Harm, Do all the Good You Can, and Stay in Love with God.

Because people are still getting sick with some having long-term effects, and some dying, we are still following the safe practices for gathering.

The team has adjusted our criteria based upon the recommendations from the Greater Pacific NW UM Conference as well as our local context and culture.

REGARDLESS OF DAILY CASE NUMBERS, IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL PLEASE STAY HOME

Familiar gathering practices such as hour-long worship with singing, fellowship hour, small group gatherings, and other events will be held/can happen WITH MASKS as long as the daily case count is under 75 (according to: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases-deaths-tracker.html)

This includes maintaining social distancing and wearing masks unless seated and drinking a beverage or having a snack. Full sit-down meals at a table full of people without masks is not safe, therefore, not permitted.

During fellowship time, or other event where beverages/food may be present, people may bring their own mug/water bottle. Dispensing of beverages and snacks may be done by one masked and gloved person at each station.

Bell Choir and Choir may resume regular rehearsals. Masks required. Bells – 6p in Rm. Choir - 7p in the sanctuary

When will masks become recommended and optional?
As long as the congregation wants to sing in worship, everyone will be wearing masks.