

Friday, September 24, 2021

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We are glad to announce that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will lift the current COVID prevention protocols effective May 29th. Apparently, the high level of vaccinations in the state and reduced COVID cases allow for relaxing the protocols. The Commonwealth is still encouraging us to be aware of the CDC guidelines for COVID prevention, especially those who have not been vaccinated.

Accordingly, we will lift all requirements for masks, social distancing, shielding, and disinfection, starting with our Sunday Worship Service on May 30th. We will provide the Judson Room as a space for those who wish to social distance yet be part of the in-person worship service. We will continue to offer our services online for those who are unable to attend in person. We strongly encourage everyone to resume meeting in person with us for Sunday worship, if possible. We are eager to be with you in the presence of the Lord and experience all the blessings God gives his gathered people!

We are looking forward to restarting regular Sunday morning Children's Ministry. We will need to comply with any ongoing protocols for the care of children. But, we anticipate that we will offer children's ministry as we have in the past. We are waiting for updated guidance from the Commonwealth. Additionally, we will need to employ a Children's Ministry Team. If you can help out by teaching or simply providing childcare, please contact Heidi Parisi and let her know.

We also are planning to make the summer months a time to reconnect with one another and invite our neighbors, relatives, and friends to enjoy the love of Christ among God's people. **So, we will be hosting an after-church picnic (or potluck if indoors) on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.** We will have no agenda but to simply be together and reconnect and experience what it means to fellowship in Christ. We could use help in setting these picnics up. Please email Peggy Buckley to let us know how you can help. We also encourage you to maximize the use of hospitality to invite folks over for food and friendship on alternate Sundays or plan your own outings with friends. I think we should see the summer as a time for healing and refreshment in the most important things, being with God and those made in his image.

We plan to continue our various ministries currently with both in-person and online options, as appropriate. Again, we encourage maximum use of in-person gatherings. When we reach September, we will consider how to best use in-person and online means for the health and fruitfulness of our various ministries.

Thanks for praying and your heart to follow Jesus together as we pursue his life and mission through King of Grace Church. We are grateful for the sustaining grace and overwhelming goodness of God to us through you!

Pastor Paul for the Elders