



Dear EPC Family and Friends ~

Christmas is coming, and so is a return to singing!

During Session's regular stated meeting on Monday, November 8, elders were greeted with hopeful news about soon-to-be available vaccines for children 5-11 years old as well as information that populations, particularly schools, with masking practices show significantly lower rates of COVID-19 than other institutions that are not masking. At a time when local community spread continues to fluctuate, this information was extremely encouraging. In light of this good news and with faithful hope, Session voted to amend our current *Measures of Care* to read:

Worship Norms / Care for the Congregation:

- Responsive readings and congregational singing will occur.

The chancel choir will begin rehearsing soon, with the use of special singing masks, to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Worship Committee and Pastor Phyl will begin slowly adding congregational hymns back into the Sunday liturgy. We encourage everyone to sing along, as the Holy Spirit moves you, while remaining masked, and contact Margaret Davidson if you'd like to (re)join the choir.

Further revisions to our *Measures of Care* will be reviewed and addressed at the January 10, 2022, stated Session meeting. **Worship remains at the West Campus through January 10, 2022**, and all other *Measures of Care* (included below) also remain in place. **Masks will continue to be worn in Sunday worship and at any function where children under 12 are present** while our younger members have time to complete the vaccination cycle. **Online worship will continue** as well with video links available via email, the EPC website, and the EPC Facebook page.

Please continue to take care of yourself, one another, and our wonderful community, especially as the holiday season gets underway. May hope, peace, joy, and love rule all our hearts, and be sure to contact your Session elders and/or Pastor Phyl with any and all concerns. Elders will be checking in with each of our EPC family over the next few days.

*Yours in Christ,
Emporia Presbyterian Church Session*

Measures of Care

Please stay home and worship online if you are not feeling well,
including (but not limited to) fever, low-grade fever, cough, sneezing, respiratory / flu-like symptoms.

Building Norms / Care of God's House:

- **Masks are to be worn at any function where children under 12 are present.**
- 6' social distancing will be practiced.
- The nursery is closed.
- Restrooms and elevators are open.

Worship Norms / Care for the Congregation:

- Bulletins will be provided.
- Responsive readings and congregational singing will occur.
- Wave at or bow to neighbors to Pass the Peace.
- Offering plates are stationed by the doors.
- Communion elements will be individually packaged and available before worship or you may bring your own on communion Sundays.
- Online worship will continue in addition to in-person worship.

Personal Norms / Care for our Neighbors:

- Online worship will continue in addition to in-person worship.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Worship online if you or a member of your household does not feel well.
- Extend grace and empathy to all and to self.

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,
you did it to me." ~Matthew 25:40*

Thank you for taking care of our church family and our community in God's name.
