

Second Edition

JUNE 2021 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

Hopefully by now you are aware of the Session's decision regarding the wearing of face coverings while in the church building. For those of you who aren't aware, or who haven't watched the video on the blog or read the letter on the website, here's the short version.

For all church activities, other than worship, face coverings are now optional while in the church building. We are still asking people to wear face coverings for worship. (This includes funerals and weddings, as they are worship services.) Beginning Sunday, July 4th, face coverings will be optional for worship, as well. In all cases we encourage you to make your choice based on vaccination status, personal health concerns, and personal comfort level.

I want to take just a moment to reiterate something I discussed in the video and letter, because I believe it is important. As we move forward, we need to shed ourselves of the mindset that wearing a face covering is anything other than a matter of personal choice and treat it as simply another piece of clothing. I know this has not been the case in the larger society, but it needs to be so here. We need to recognize the freedom that people have to act responsibly when it comes to wearing, or not wearing, a face covering.

This past Sunday was the first Sunday with our new bifurcated policy. I want to thank everyone for wearing face coverings in worship. I didn't see anyone not abiding by the Session's request, nor did I hear of anyone being argumentative about it. However, I did hear from a couple of people who said they felt "shamed" into removing their face coverings by others, either before or after worship. So I want to ask you - PLEASE - do not do this! *Please* do not encourage people to either remove or put on a face covering while in the church building. What is right for you might not be right for the next person, and vice versa.

I know we are all new to navigating the etiquette of face coverings, but we do not question the people who choose to wear a tie, nor we do encourage them to remove it if wearing one. We do not question the people who choose to wear a dress, nor do we encourage them to wear pants, instead. We accept that some people are comfortable dressing down for worship while others are more comfortable dressing up.



We need to approach face coverings the same way. If someone is more comfortable wearing a face covering, they shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable doing so. Please don't encourage them to remove it. Accept their choice. If someone is *not* wearing a face covering, please don't encourage them to do so. Accept their choice. We want to avoid shaming people or making them feel defensive. As I have told my kids growing up, "You take care of you and let everybody else take care of themselves."

I get it - Covid has conditioned us to focus on what other people are doing, and for a very good reason...our own health, safety, and well-being. However, the science now tells us the vaccine protects us from getting seriously ill and from spreading the virus to others. So at this point, face coverings are mostly a reflection of personal comfort level. Mostly.

There is one other thing to be considered. Those who are immunocompromised are still encouraged to wear a face covering for extra protection. That person wearing a face covering could be undergoing cancer treatments, be HIV positive, have kidney disease, or have some other reason for continuing to wear a face covering. By encouraging them to remove it, we put them in the awkward position of revealing something they would rather keep private, or of putting their life in jeopardy just to avoid being shamed.

We are called to live with grace and to treat others with respect, not shame them. So please, for the sake of hospitality and for the sake of truly being a welcoming community, let's practice grace in our relationships with others. Let's not ask people why they are or are not wearing a face covering. Let's simply enjoy the fact that we can finally be together again safely.

Grace and peace...

A stylized, handwritten signature or flourish in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller, more intricate mark.



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Updated Covid Policies – May 19th

The Session has updated our Covid policies in light of the recent CDC guidelines. For the full rationale for these policies, you can visit our website. The health and safety of the entire congregation depends upon each of us following these guidelines, so we ask that you please read and familiarize yourself with them so that we may return safely and comfortably.

Face coverings: As of May 19th, face coverings are optional for those who are fully vaccinated while in the church building for meetings, Sunday School classes, Bible studies, or other activities, except for worship. We do request and encourage you to still maintain a safe physical distance from one another and the staff, especially if you choose not to wear a face covering.

We continue to ask everyone to wear a face covering during worship, as well as practice physical distancing and refrain from physical contact, regardless of vaccination status, through the end of June.

Beginning Sunday, July 4th, face coverings will be optional during worship for those who are fully vaccinated.

Face coverings are optional outdoors for anyone, regardless of vaccination status.

Safe Physical distancing: Each household is asked to maintain an appropriate physical distance and to refrain from physical contact with those outside of one's household, regardless of vaccination status. Worshipers are asked not to congregate in groups inside the sanctuary but are free to congregate and visit with one another outside in the Sanctuary Courtyard or other outdoor areas on the church grounds.

Nursery: The nursery is open during worship and childcare is available for children, infant to age 6.

Singing: Worshipers are asked to sing hymns quietly while wearing a mask. We will only sing two hymns in a service, rather than three, and we may sing fewer verses than normal. Hymnbooks are available for those who choose to use them. Hymn lyrics will be on the screen, however they will no longer be printed in the bulletin.

Bulletins/Bibles: Worship bulletins are available for those who desire one. For those who do not, all communal aspects of the worship service are displayed on a screen. Bibles are available in the pews for those who choose to use them.

Offering Plates: We will not pass offering plates during the service. Plates are placed at the entrances to the sanctuary and worshipers are encouraged to place their offering there, either as they enter or exit.

Communion: We will celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month using self-contained communion cups. By mid-summer it may be possible to offer an optional intinction communion station up front for those who wish to come forward and partake of communion in this manner. This would be in addition to, not in place of, the self-contained communion cups. We do not see a return to "normal" communion until at least the fall.

Worship Leadership: The choir will remain as it has been during the pandemic, 6-8 scholarship singers properly distanced, wearing masks and rehearsing on Sunday mornings. The liturgists and pastors will lead worship from the lectern and pulpit. They will not wear face coverings while speaking in the lectern/pulpit but will wear face coverings the rest of the time.

The Worship Ministry Unit and Session will revisit these guidelines throughout the summer and adjust accordingly as case levels, hospitalization levels, and vaccination levels allow.

NEW MINISTRY UNIT MODERATORS

AT THEIR RECENT MEETING, THE SESSION MADE THE FOLLOWING NEW ASSIGNMENTS:

Worship & Celebration

Margie Gill
Ileen Cheek

Service & Outreach

Tracy Horton
Tim Wright

Discipleship

Patricia Kennedy,
Angela Jones

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Joe Clarke

Stewardship

Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles
Mary Kay Sullivan

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

We continue our year-long sermon series on The Acts of the Apostles in the month of June. The first three weeks we will look at Paul's first missionary journey.

This journey, which happened around the spring of 48 CE, was undertaken with his travelling companions, Barnabas and, for a little while, John Mark. Acts 13-14 sets up a pattern we will see on each of his successive journeys – preaching the Word, performing miracles, making disciples, and being persecuted.

On June 27th we will look at the pivotal Jerusalem Council meeting where the matter of the Gentiles is finally settled once and for all.

June 6	Acts 13:1-12	Paul in Cyprus
June 13	Acts 13:13-52	Paul in Pisidia
June 20	Acts 14:1-28	Paul in Iconium & Lystra
June 27	Acts 15:1-35	The Jerusalem Council

Organist News



Our organist, David Stultz will be away for three Sundays this month. On June 6th he will be vacationing with his family. On June 20th and 27th David will be away on an American Guild of Organists tour of the great cathedrals of New York and Boston. As part of this tour, David will have a chance to play some of the finest organs in the country. While David is away, Matt Mimbs will play the piano for our worship services.

David will return for the entire month of July before heading off to Notre Dame to continue his studies. **His last Sunday with us will be Sunday, July 25th.** (See below for how you can help thank David for his service to 2nd Presbyterian Church.) The Worship Ministry Unit is appointing an Organist Search Work Group to search for a new organist. If you are interested in serving on this Work Group, please let Pastor Tim, Margie Gill, Ileen Cheek, or Matt Mimbs know of your interest.

Love Offering for David Stultz

It's time to say good-bye to David Stultz. We are sad to see him go, but it has been a true blessing to have him as our organist and part of our congregation for the last 3-and-a-half years.

As a thank you and a good-bye, we are taking up a love offering; we will also present him with a keepsake gift from the congregation. If you would like to make a donation to this love offering, please send your donation to the church and designate it for David's love offering.

David is going to perform a concert on July 25th at 5:00 PM and we will have a reception for him after the concert.

It will be exciting to see what the future holds for David. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for him to come back and worship with us and share his gifts in the future.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

John Henley 06/07

Mary Farmer 06/23

Tim Reynolds 06/07

Genevieve Hendrix 06/24

Jim Thuesen 06/08

Helen Ferguson 06/26

Mary Alice Callaway 06/14

Margie Gill 06/26

Ruth Campbell 06/16

Josh Lewis 06/26

Michael Turner 06/17

Owen Wall 06/28

Bonnie Beals 06/18

Sherri Lee 06/30

Please note: We take special care in insuring that all active members' birthdays are included on this list, if you notice a discrepancy, kindly advise the church office.

Thank you.

June Memorial Services

On Monday, June 7th at 11:00 a.m., a memorial service will be held for **Aggie Bell** in the sanctuary. The family will receive visitors following the service.

A memorial service for **Marjorie Reynolds** will be held on Saturday, June 19 at 11:00 a.m., also in the sanctuary. The family will receive visitors following the service.

Thank You

"We would like everyone to know how much we appreciated all of the cards, calls, and donations received following the death of Lauren's mother, Derryl Kasler. Thank you all very much."

- Sincerely, Lauren and Dick Dodson

2021 Confirmation Class

What a glorious day when the five members of our 2021 Confirmation Class professed their faith in Christ and joined the church on Pentecost! Get to know each of them a little better by reading more about them below.

Henry Casey is a rising 8th grader at Bearden Middle School. He participates on the cross country team at school and has been playing the tuba for the BMS band. Henry has been taking piano lessons for approximately five years, as well. He enjoys hanging out with friends, listening to music and collecting and reading books. Henry also has been swimming on a local swim team for the past few summers and is getting ready to do the same in June.



Sydney Margaret Mae Jones is 14 yrs old and will be attending South Doyle High School this upcoming year. She plays the trumpet, does cross country, and writes poetry. She also enjoys hiking, biking, painting and movies. Sydney has gone to Second Presbyterian since just before kindergarten.

Lily Reynolds is a rising junior at Bearden High School. She moved to Knoxville with her family in 2016 and has been part of 2nd Presbyterian Church and the youth group ever since. Lily plays clarinet in the Bearden Bulldog Marching Band and will be the clarinet section leader next year. She has also been involved in community theater since she was young and is active in the Bearden Musical Theater program. When not singing, acting, or playing music, Lily can be found shopping at Target, hanging out with her friends, or shopping at Target while hanging out with her friends!



2021 Confirmation Class, continued



Dale Henley has attended Second Presbyterian Church since he was born. He loves this church and the people here. Dale enjoys helping out with the live streaming on Sundays and learning all that goes into it. His favorite time at Second was the youth trip to Montreat two years ago.

Dale is a rising senior at Hardin Valley Academy. He has played varsity basketball each year and looks forward to another year on varsity. Dale is also an avid sports fan. He loves his Vols and attends as many of their sporting events as he can, but will literally watch any sport, any team, any time!

Neal Henley has attended Second Presbyterian Church since he was born. He, too, loves this church and the people here. He enjoys his small but mighty Sunday School group, and especially his time with Ms. Holly.

Neal is a rising freshman at Hardin Valley Academy. He loves to play football and will play on the HVA freshman team in the fall. Neal has also discovered a passion for Track and Field. He just completed his first season as a shot put and discus thrower, where he earned third place at the Knox County Elite Meet. He plans to continue this new sport in high school. Neal also loves the Vols and cannot wait to get back to attending football games in the fall.



2ND WEDNESDAY CONFESSIONS DISCUSSION

Wednesday, June 9th, will be our *final 2nd Wednesday discussion of the program year*. We will gather on Zoom to discuss Pastor Tim's study of the Book of Confessions.

This month's discussion will center on the four 20th century confessions – *The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Confession of 1967, The Belhar Confession, and A Brief Statement of Faith.*

Bring your questions, comments, and insights to share.

If you are not already on our email list, contact the church office for the Zoom link.

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TRAVELING THROUGH GENESIS!

HERE PATTON, JACK, AND NOAH HAVE BUILT AN ALTAR TO GOD JUST AS ABRAM AND SARAI DID.



Women's Conference at Montreat

There are a few spots still available to attend the Women's Conference at Montreat, August 13-15.

If you'd like to learn more about the conference, you can go to

<https://montreat.org/events/wc2021>

to read about the speakers, workshops, and schedule for the weekend.

If you're interested in attending, contact Pastor Sarah (smorgan@2ndpres.org).

Extended Communion

With the return of some sort of normalcy and an opening up of assisted living and nursing homes, we are testing the waters to determine whether or not to restart our extended communion program for shut-ins.

Several of our folks are interested and with the portable disposable communion service, there is no need to pack a basket. There are still scripture verses and prayers to be done and a short training can be made available for anyone who wishes to participate that has not done it before.

Service is done in teams of two with at least one being an ordained officer. You do not have to currently be serving as an elder.

If you are interested, please contact Jan Barber at jbarber@2ndpres.org or 865-765-0437

We appreciate your support.



Work is coming along nicely on the Habitat House, as you can see from the pictures. Thanks to all who have volunteered so far!

We have also added a new page to our website with pictures of the build.





If you can help on June 19th or 26th, we'd love to see you!

June 19th will be painting and June 16th will be trim and cabinetry.

Come give a few hours of our time to help a wonderful family have a home!



Updates from the Session

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 2021 STATED SESSION MEETING

- RECEIVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND REPORTS FROM THE PRESCHOOL AND MINISTRY TEAMS AS INFORMATION;
- APPROVED MAKING FACE COVERINGS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH FACILITY FOR ALL ACTIVITIES, EXCEPT WORSHIP, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AND OPTIONAL FOR WORSHIP BEGINNING JULY 4, 2021;
- APPROVED A DISTRIBUTION OF \$2000 TO THE TURKS FROM THE CLARA RENNOLDS ENDOWMENT FUND WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT ACTIVE MISSIONARIES;
- APPROVED THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$500 EACH TO THE MORGANS AND DIMMOCKS FROM THE RENNOLDS ENDOWMENT FUND WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT RETIRED MISSIONARIES;
- RECEIVED HENRY CASEY BY BAPTISM AND DALE HENLEY, NEAL HENLEY, SYDNEY JONES AND LILY REYNOLDS BY FIRST-TIME PROFESSION OF FAITH INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION.

APRIL BUDGET REPORT

	APRIL	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$40,350.01	\$357,146.63	\$788,556.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$58,255.17	\$211,830.41	\$788,556.00
EXCESS/ (SHORTAGE)	(\$17,905.16)	\$144,316.22	---

		1 9a Staff Meeting 5p Facility Ministry (Zoom) 6p Care & Compassion (MCR) 7p Service & Outreach (MCR)	2 2p Compassionate Cuisine (FH)	3	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 Communion Sunday David Out of Town 9 ⁴⁵ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	7 11a Aggie Bell Service (Sanctuary) 4 ³⁰ p The Cross Ministry	8 6p Worship Ministry (Zoom)	9 7p 2 nd Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Stewardship Ministry (Zoom)	10	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 9 ⁴⁵ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	14 6p Discipleship (Zoom)	15 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Mtg (FH)	16 2p Compassionate Cuisine (FH)	17 10a Arts & Crafts (Room 227)	18 Church Office Closed	19 Habitat Build 11a Marjorie Reynolds Service (Sanctuary)
20 Father's Day David Out of Town 9 ⁴⁵ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	21 12p Preschool Board (Zoom)	22 9a FISH Pantry (FH)	23	24	25 Church Office Closed	26 Habitat Build
27 David Out of Town 9 ⁴⁵ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	28	29	30			



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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
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*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

CLASS OF 2024

Ileen Cheek
Joe Clarke
Angela Jones
Mary Kay Sullivan

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Margie Gill
Ileen Cheek

Discipleship

Patricia Kennedy
Angela Jones

Service & Outreach

Tracy Horton
Tim Wright

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Joe Clarke

Stewardship

Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles
Mary Kay Sullivan

Preschool Board

Charles White