

August 13, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I apologize for sending out another letter from the church, but I need to make you aware of a change in our indoor worship policy related to the Covid pandemic, particularly the current Delta variant.

We have received word that because Allegany County is now designated as an area of substantial community transmission of COVID-19 by the CDC, masks should be worn by all individuals regardless of vaccination status indoors.

The immediate concern is not so much new cases, though the point of the guideline is to prevent new cases, but the growing transmission rate. With the Delta variant, even those vaccinated can transmit the virus, thus the recommendation for all people.

In response to this information, we are asking everyone who attends our indoor worship service or is part of any indoor gathering at the church to wear a mask. This includes children ages 2 and above.

At this time, the outdoor service is unaffected.

We recognize that this is not what we had hoped for, but it is a decision we suspected might need to be made. Please join me in praying for healing for all who are ill, for an end to the virus and for us as a church as we continue to learn how to navigate these waters and as we continue to learn how to love each other as we do so.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the Covid Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed. As always, I am always happy to visit with you if you have concerns or questions.

Thank you for your prayers for our church and for our leaders. We value you and give thanks for you every day.

Blessings,  
Pastor Wes