

**UPDATES FROM THE REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER TEAM: as of Mar. 2022**

Recognizing the state-wide mask mandate is ending March 12, the RLT Team met to discuss our church's next steps. Based on [CDC guidance](#), high vaccination rates, and [low overall vulnerability](#), we are comfortable moving forward in the following ways, beginning this Sunday, March 13:

- **Masking is now optional** -- You are invited to mask at your own discretion. Please be respectful of those whose masking preference is different from your own. Masks will still be available upon entry into the building if you should desire one.
- **Commercially prepared, unopened food can be served** -- We resumed Fellowship Hour in Centennial Hall last week, with beverage service and commercially prepared food items. We look forward to continuing that time of congregational connection.
- **The building is open** -- Our front door will now be unlocked during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-3:30pm). If you would like to host a gathering or join a hybrid/zoom meeting from the church, please get in touch with Amy to schedule it in the calendar.

While we loosen some restrictions, we still have your health and safety in mind! Regular cleaning and sanitizing of rooms and surfaces is taking place, and we will continue to keep air flowing with open windows and/or the air purification system connected to our Sanctuary furnace.

- Erin Tombaugh, on behalf of the RLT Team

**UPDATES FROM THE REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER TEAM: as of Feb. 2022**

We anticipate being able to reopen Centennial Hall for Fellowship Hour in the coming weeks. *When we do*, we will need **kitchen volunteers to prepare and serve coffee and snacks**, as well as **snack sponsors** (purchasing commercially-prepared, easy-to-serve food items). If you would like to sign up to be either a kitchen volunteer or snack sponsor, please get in touch with Amy at [office@oakharborfumc.org](mailto:office@oakharborfumc.org) or 360-675-2441.

Small Groups, Ministry Teams, and other gatherings are welcome to meet in the church, continuing to follow our Covid safety measures. Please schedule your gathering through Amy. If you would like to have a hybrid gathering (some people in-person and some on Zoom), let us know and we can help with the logistics.

We know many in our midst long for the familial interactions of the past. As Covid cases decrease and we continue to adapt to our current reality, we want to give our church family permission to resume making physical connections like hugs, handshakes, and high fives, *as you're comfortable*. Keep in mind that everyone's risk threshold is different, so please be respectful of others' physical boundaries as they may not be the same as yours.

Following Governor Inslee's announcement that the indoor mask mandate will end on March 21, we are starting to get questions about the impact that will have on our church's masking policy. The RLT team will meet again on March 17 to focus our discussion on that topic.

#### **UPDATES FROM THE REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER TEAM: as of Jan. 2022**

Our Reimagining Life Together Team met this week to discuss the ongoing concerns about growing Covid case numbers. While the possibility of temporarily closing our doors and going to virtual-only worship again was discussed, we are trying to avoid that, knowing how important it is to have the option to attend worship in-person.

Therefore, in order to remain open and get past the Omicron variant surge, we are requesting that anyone attending our church in person wear a KN95/N95 respirator mask or professional grade Singers' mask. KN95 masks are available in the Narthex upon entry if you need one.

Our worship services will continue to be available through livestream via Facebook and our website ([oakharborfumc.org/live](https://oakharborfumc.org/live)) for those who do not wish to attend in person at this time.

Thank you for helping us keep our congregation and community as safe as possible.

#### **UPDATES FROM THE REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER TEAM: as of Dec. 2021**

**Singing** - In order to sing during worship as safely as possible, we are asking everyone who is singing to **wear masks that are 3-5 layers, 3D, and well-fit against the face**. These measures allow for maximum air filtration, mouth motion without your mask slipping off your mouth or nose, and prevent aerosol leaks. One-time use options include KN95 masks, which we will have available at our Welcome Kiosk for those who need one. To find a reusable/washable option or to learn more about these recommendations, see the [Covid-19 page of our website](#).

**Food** - Coffee Fellowship time after worship has resumed, currently with just beverages only. We anticipate reintroducing food refreshments -- commercially prepared, individually plated -- in January. When we do that, we'll need people to provide

refreshments. If you'd like to sponsor one Sunday's Coffee Fellowship, please get in touch with Amy in the office by the Thursday before the Sunday you would like to host. See who is hosting this week later in this email.

#### **UPDATES FROM THE REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER TEAM: as of Nov. 2021**

Our RLT team met on Wednesday and determined that we can *cautiously* loosen some safety restrictions we've had in place.

Things that led to these decisions include:

- While Island County is currently still in the Orange (High) risk level, we are seeing Covid numbers decreasing in our area.
- Our congregation is diligent about following safety practices like wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, maintaining space, etc., which will still be in place.
- While running, our new furnace filtration system changes the air in the Sanctuary approximately 4.8 times per hour. The ideal recommendation is 4-6.
- Our PNW Conference offers guidance and recommendations for best practices, but affirms that our local congregation can determine what works for us at this time.

What is changing:

- We are able to keep most windows and doors closed during the service and keep the Sanctuary at a comfortable temperature.
- Bibles, Hymnals, and other materials are returning to the pew back pockets for your use.
- Coffee Fellowship is returning to Centennial Hall following worship. We will start with drinks only and not snacks yet. Please keep your mask on when not actively taking a drink.
- Our Praise Band singers are returning to the Sanctuary to help lead worship. They are fully vaccinated and will continue to wear masks.