

Greetings Stephens City Church Family,

I hope that you are well spiritually, mentally, and physically. I am writing to you regarding the increase in COVID cases in Frederick County, VA. At the time of this writing, the County is at a Severe Risk Level; we were elevated to this level because the County is averaging 182.5 daily new COVID cases; there is a positivity rate of 40.3%; and we have a 62.4% vaccination rate (1+ Dose). For additional information on local infection information, you may go to:

[https://covidactnow.org/us/virginiava/county/frederick\\_county/](https://covidactnow.org/us/virginiava/county/frederick_county/).

The SCUMC Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) met to discuss the current conditions within our community and to determine the best path forward as a body of faith.

To continue our vigilance in keeping everyone safe (those who have been vaccinated, those who cannot be vaccinated, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated) the following safety precautions are effective immediately, January 6, 2022.

- **Facial coverings/Masks are required for all persons 5 years of age and older (vaccinated and unvaccinated) who enter the building.** Facial coverings must remain in place - covering the mouth and nose. The exception to this precaution is for staff/volunteers who are working alone in an office/room.
- In addition to face coverings/masks, we will be returning to the practice of social distancing. Please allow six feet (6 Ft.) between family groups/individuals in worship and meetings. The pews in the sanctuary have been marked; please do not remove the barriers from the pews. The chairs in the chapel have been spread out.
- Prior to attending worship or other gatherings at SCUMC, please ensure that you are feeling well. If you have a temperature above 100.4 degrees or are experiencing other new symptoms (chills, cough, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, etc.) please stay home or seek medical assistance.
- In an attempt to further mitigate the transmission of COVID, there will be no food or drinks at any gatherings held inside of the church building.

Please remember that the COVID protocol has been implemented to keep everyone safe. It is a blessing to keep the doors of the church open so we can worship God together. The PRG will meet again on February 1, 2022, to review the above listed protocol; necessary adjustments will be made at that time. If you have any questions or concerns, please reply to my email at [bertinawestley@vaumc.org](mailto:bertinawestley@vaumc.org) or call me at (540) 869-2348.

May the peace of Christ be with you,  
Pastor Bertina