



RE-OPENING SAFELY TASK FORCE - UPDATE

April 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We here at Grace have been blessed by a small group of disciples called the Re-Entry Team. This team has been serving as an advisory team throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. They have kept up with medical announcements and metrics on the county, state, and national level. They have been in conversation with each other via email as new data has been issued through various media platforms. This team, along with the usual leadership teams of the church council, and church staff, have provided valuable advice and conversation to me.

On Wednesday, April 7th, they once again met to discuss the current statistics of the pandemic trends in Harford County and to re-evaluate whether or not we could safely resume any in-person gatherings. At the meeting and using "CovidActNow.org" statistics web site, the team discovered that unfortunately the trend of the virus has spiked drastically in the last few weeks and continues to rise up every day.

The current Harford County statistics as of April 8th, 2021 shows:

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|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Daily New Cases | 33.5 per 100k | Critical Risk |
| 2. Positive Test Rate | 9.8% | Medium Risk |
| 3. Infection Rate | 1.15 | High Risk |

For that reason, at the meeting we concluded that at the present time we are unable to safely resume in-person worship and other small group gatherings including our nursery school.

Moving forward, the factors to determine any in-person gatherings are when Harford County statistics reflect:

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|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Daily New Cases | 15 per 100k | Medium Risk |
| 2. Positive Test Rate | 7% | Medium Risk |
| 3. Infection Rate | 1 | Medium Risk |

Once again, the team's utmost concern is the health and safety of our congregation, and in doing so, the Task Force will focus on:

1. Following what the science tells us
2. Focusing on our Wesleyan Methodist Tradition to
 - Do No Harm
 - Do Good
 - Stay in Love With God

At the present time, our faith community will continue to gather through virtual worship each week. We will continue to provide a "Family Ministry Moment" through our website and our YouTube/Facebook channels. We will continue to provide the food pantry each week, maintain the sandwich ministry, participate in the "Sharing Table," support other non-profit organizations through the Ministries and Missions team, and we will continue to explore different ministry opportunities that serve our local community.

I encourage you to continue to be in prayer for Grace Church, its members, and the local community as we continue to care for one another.

Blessings,
Rev. Braulio Torres, Pastor

Re-Opening Safely Task Force: Leslie McGlothlin, Bruce Appell, Glenn Gillis, Pat Hagerman, Deborah Lake, Ann Laughton, Rose Lyman, Dennis Stewart