

Dear Meeting House Family,

Covid fatigue. We all have it. It was two years ago this month when the first case was reported in the United States. Soon thereafter, the whole world changed and things like masking, social distancing, Zoom calls, livestreaming, working from home, and home-schooling became the new normal. All these things had us longing for a deeper, more personal, sense of connection with our families, friends, and co-workers. And we almost got there. Almost, but not quite. Instead, we were introduced to another Greek letter- Omicron, and the latest and most easily spread variant of Covid. As a recent *New York Times* article put it, this left most of us feeling “worn out and fed up.”

It’s no different here at the Meeting House. We were hoping to be back to full capacity by now- studying, worshipping, and serving together in-person, without any restrictions. But in light of the current Covid data, we are continuing and, in some cases, adding back certain protocols. Our aim is to protect the health and well-being of all in our community while continuing our varied ministries.

Sunday worship will continue to be held both in-person and online. We will continue to live-stream all our worship services and most, if not all, our educational offerings. For those attending in-person, vaccination is strongly encouraged, and masking is required. Because of the highly transmissible nature of Omicron, we urge the use of higher quality masks such as KN95s or KF94s. Please note that we will re-instate social distancing during January as well, meaning that every other pew will be closed.

Church school for children and youth will continue to be offered in-person on a limited basis and with certain restrictions. We are suspending Fellowship Hour during January, and Adult Education will shift to Zoom only for the month. Boards and committees will meet virtually until further notice.

If you are not well, think you may have been exposed to the virus, have tested positive or have been in close contact with someone who has, please stay home and participate via livestreaming or by accessing a recorded service. If, for any reason, you feel uncomfortable attending in person, we encourage you to participate virtually at [opmh.org](http://opmh.org).

Know that your staff and officers will continue to monitor the data and recommend changes when and where appropriate. Hopefully, by Spring, we will be in a much better place. Remember, we are all in this together! To that end, we encourage you to continue supporting the work of the Meeting House. And, as always, if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please don’t hesitate to reach out to one of us.

Yours in Christ,

Rocky, Katherine, and Ann