

TIERED COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS AT GRACE
(Effective 8/5/2021, Updated 3/29/2022)

CDC Transmission Level for Watauga County	Low (Green) and Moderate (Yellow)	High (Red)
Overall Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are highly encouraged for all indoor activities (including worship) for those who are vaccinated; and, masks are required for those who are not vaccinated. • Everyone is encouraged to wear masks for outdoor activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are required for everyone for all indoor activities (including worship) regardless of vaccination status. • Everyone is encouraged to wear masks for outdoor activities.
Sunday Morning Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will enter through the Narthex door and sign-in when they arrive at church. • The church building will be opened 15 minutes prior to church activities to allow for an orderly check-in process. • Offering plates will not be passed during the offering time. The offering plate will be in the Narthex to be used either while entering or exiting the sanctuary. • We will adjust seating availability based on worship attendance. Worshippers are encouraged to sit in every other pew. • Adult Sunday School may be offered in a hy-flex format (in-person and online). • Children’s Sunday School may be led outside when possible with masks highly encouraged. All children under 5 and their Adult leaders will be required to wear masks when inside. • Nursery may be used by families for changing diapers and as a calming space. The Nursery will not be staffed. Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will enter through the Narthex door and sign-in when they arrive at church. • The church building will be opened 15 minutes prior to church activities to allow for an orderly check-in process. • Offering plates will not be passed during the offering time. The offering plate will be in the Narthex to be used either while entering or exiting the sanctuary. • Seating will only be available in every other pew. • Adult Sunday School will be offered online. • Children’s Sunday School may be led outside when possible, with masks highly encouraged. All children under 12 and their Adult leaders will be required to wear masks when inside. • Nursery may be used by families for changing diapers and as a calming space. The Nursery will not be staffed. Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Singing: Everyone (including the Choir) are highly encouraged to place masks over their mouth and nose when singing. ● Communion: Communion may be served at the head of the aisle. ● Lay Worship Leaders: Lay Readers and Assisting Ministers will help lead the worship service with Pastor Steve and be asked to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Worship leaders may remove masks for readings and prayers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● Communion: In an environment with high transmission rates, Communion may not be served. ● Lay Worship Leaders: Lay Readers and Assisting Ministers will help lead the worship service with Pastor Steve and be asked to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Worship leaders may remove masks for readings and prayers.
Online Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High quality online worship will continue to go live each Sunday by 8:30am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High quality online worship will continue to go live each Sunday by 8:30am.
Other In-Person Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We require accurate registration for all events, with the exception of AA and NA. ● The Fellowship Hall will be the primary meeting space. The Chapel, Parlor, and Lower Fellowship Hall are also available for smaller group gatherings. Each space will need a cleaning block of time between meetings. ● Food and drinks may be served at in-person gatherings, with the exception of any indoor events including children under the age of 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We require accurate registration for all events, with the exception of AA and NA. ● The Fellowship Hall will be the primary meeting space. The Chapel, Parlor, and Lower Fellowship Hall are also available for smaller group gatherings. Each space will need a cleaning block of time between meetings. ● Food and drinks may not be served at in-person, indoor gatherings.
Church Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The church office will continue to be open on a limited schedule, as staff members balance in-person and remote work. Staff members will continue to be able to be reached through their church extensions when working remotely, and staff members continue to be responsive on email. ● Staff members will keep masks with them at all times and mirror the mask status of the people they interact with inside church facilities. Staff members will wear masks when interacting with children under 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The church office will continue to be open on a limited schedule, as staff members balance in-person and remote work. Staff members will continue to be able to be reached through their church extensions when working remotely, and staff members continue to be responsive on email. ● Staff members will be masked when interacting with other people inside the church facilities.