With the rapid decline in hospitalizations for COVID over the past 2 weeks, the Reopening Task Force believes we can begin relaxing some of the current COVID restrictions at Highland. The overarching principle is to allow those fully vaccinated individuals who now feel comfortable going without masks 100% of the time to do so, while allowing those who are not comfortable to keep a safe distance from people who are maskless. It is clear now that, at least for those vaccinated and boosted, the risk of getting seriously ill from COVID is extremely small. Nonetheless, while some people are chomping at the bit to get out and about without a mask, others are not yet ready to take that step, and some may never be.

Based on this information, the Task Force and Session have approved the following changes:

1. The middle two sections of the sanctuary will be mask-optional, while the flanking sections will be taped to permit greater distancing, and those seated in those sections should remain masked. People passing through the Narthex to and from worship should wear masks while around others. People sitting in the Narthex during the service do not have to mask while the service is ongoing but should wear a mask coming and going as well.
2. Coffee service will resume in Fellowship Hall (provided volunteer support is available to make and serve), thus allowing those who wish to partake to do so without interacting with those who are more cautious. Those wishing to socialize unmasked should make use of Fellowship Hall as well. Again, please respect those who do not feel safe around unmasked individuals and err on the side of masking when in doubt.
3. Small groups may meet without masks if the group all agrees to do so.
4. Masks are optional for Upward Basketball while kids are playing. When not on the court playing, masks are still required.

Signs will be posted to reflect these guidelines. They will take effect on Sunday 2/13/22