

Friday, August 6, 2021

Dear South District Family,

We continue to live in the ever-changing COVID-19 world. In the last few weeks, infections have been on the rise again with hospitals in some of our cities facing being overwhelmed by those needing care. In Imperial County alone, almost 30% of the new cases have been in children under the age of 16.

Our District covers several counties but all of them are now strongly recommending masking for all indoor gatherings, regardless of vaccination status. I encourage all congregations to follow this recommendation for worship and other indoor gatherings. Doing so will help us protect those who cannot be vaccinated yet, including the children among us. It will help us protect those among us who are vaccinated but also immune-compromised who remain susceptible to the virus. It will help us protect those who have chosen not to be vaccinated yet.

I know it is difficult to go back to wearing masks but doing so may well keep us able to continue to gather for in-person worship. It may well help us save lives. Doing so, surely, will help us avoid doing harm and assist us in doing good.

Together, we will continue to navigate this difficult landscape as we seek to love one another as we have been loved.

Blessings,

Rev Sandra K. Olewine
South District Superintendent