

Hello Grace Hill Church Family,

I hope this note finds you doing well in the Lord. As you may have heard, Governor Evers issued a mandate August 1 through September 28 requiring the wearing of face masks when indoors at public places. This mandate is for all people 5 years old and up, with a few exceptions (see Governor Evers mandate [HERE](#)). Children between 2 and 5 are encouraged to wear masks, but are not mandated.

How should we respond? In short, the Elders of GHC are asking you to abide by this mandate for our worship services. Our purpose as a church is “to speak and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the joy of all people and for the glory of God”. Wearing a mask does not hinder that purpose. We plan to remove our masks when eating (i.e. Communion). Individuals speaking or playing instruments on the platform can do so without masks. All of this is within the parameters of the mandate. For other portions of the service we encourage the wearing of masks. I recently attended a church that required masks, and yes, I was able to make a joyful noise to the Lord with a mask.

You don't have to agree with the mandate in order to abide by the mandate. We understand that there are differing opinions on the “science” of wearing masks. It may not be your personal preference. Most likely this mandate will be challenged in court, and it may be overturned. But at this point, Romans 13.1-7 and I Peter 2.13-17 make it clear that Christ is honored when we honor the earthly rulers He places over us, even if the earthly ruler is unjust. Again, nothing about wearing a mask will hinder our purpose as a church.

We invite you to join us in focusing on “speaking and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the joy of all people and for the glory of God”.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Darrel  
Speaking on behalf of the GHC Elders