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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon you and yours on this day!

I write to share information about how we will continue in ministry and mission together in this present COVID/Delta Variant environment. We, like St. Paul, amidst difficult times, seek "...to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call in Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:14) So, we are committed to being in worship, church school, fellowship, learning, and service opportunities together, amidst this uncertain and challenging health crisis. Yes, we too are "pressing on" in ministry and mission!

The question is how best to do just that? Yes, how do we accomplish that and care for each other's well-being? First of all, we remember the words of Jesus as he called and calls upon us to, "Love our neighbors as we love ourselves." (Matthew 22:39) It is in such a spirit that our Onsite COVID Team requests of us, encourages us and expects us to respond positively to the following guidelines as the community of faith at Munsey UMC:

- **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** In worship, we will return to roping off every other pew in the sanctuary and spaced seating in The Journey. Please wear masks during worship, especially when singing. Practice common sense social distancing and wear masks in Sunday School classrooms and other gathering places where 10 or more are together.
- **VACCINATIONS:** We encourage all who have not been vaccinated (CDC data shows 99.99% of vaccinated haven't had COVID breakthrough case) and are eligible, general health permitting, to be vaccinated. If not vaccinated, please wear a mask.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/CHURCH AND WORSHIP LEADERS:** All teachers of children and youth to wear masks. This includes pre-school. Any adult interacting with children, masking is a necessity. We are very aware that this present outbreak is impacting the lives of our children and youth and young adult population in a more serious way than earlier. In-house administrative meetings and worship leaders in proximity to worshippers should wear masks.

Again, our desire is to keep moving forward, to "press on" in our life together as followers of Jesus. Our team believes very strongly that we can do so by following the above stated expectations. Thank you for doing so. So, I continue to look forward to being in worship and service with you in the days ahead.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the many warm and kind ways you have received Carolyn and me into the Munsey Community of Faith. Thank you! Also, do not let it be lost on you that for 150 years Munsey has been in mission for the cause Christ! May this light shine on and on!

In Christ,



Douglas R. Fairbanks, Jr.
Interim Senior Minister