

July 13, 2020

As you know, this time of managing the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging at the national, state, and local levels. Unfortunately, we have continued to see increasing numbers of people contracting the virus across each of these levels in recent days. I hope you are joining me by continuing to pray for those who are sick, for those who are treating the sick, for a cure/vaccine to be found soon, and for those who are doing their best to manage an incredibly difficult situation.

Our local elected officials – the Decatur City Council with our Mayor’s approval - issued a mask update last week stipulating that masks must be worn indoors at all times. Please read the mask update so that you are certain you are living in accordance with this new law. As you can see, the ordinance has made an exception for churches, thus giving us the ability to not require masks, but it has also stated that “face coverings are strongly encouraged for congregants during worship services, especially while singing or speaking together.” In order for us to best love our neighbors and honor the desires of our government we need to follow this strong encouragement.

Accordingly, beginning this Sunday, July 19, (please don't forget to Save a Seat for Sunday, July 19, 2020) masks will be required for everyone attending a Central Baptist worship service for the duration of the service. If you arrive without a mask, we will provide one to you. The exceptions to this guidance will be the same exceptions provided for by the mask update. You can find a full list of those exceptions by following the link shared above, but included in those exceptions are those who are younger than age 2 and those who have physical limitations. We will also exempt those leading the service from the platform, though we will expect them to wear a mask as soon as they leave the platform.

While we know that this is a difficult decision, we hope it will only be for a short length of time and we look forward to a time in the near future when the virus has been eradicated and we can return to unencumbered worship together.

Remember, the best is yet to come!

Dr. Rob Hatfield