

Dear SEC,

The church is facing difficult days, however, we are confident that God has all the wisdom and provision we need.

As you know, the state declared the need for masks to be used at all indoor gatherings because of the current outbreak of the Delta Variant of the Covid Virus. Recent reports indicate a greater infection rate with this variant than with the original. We are experiencing the impact of this latest wave within our own congregation. This calls us to be cautious and considerate of others, while emphasizing the need for prayer.

The Church Council met this week, sensing a need to give direction to the church. We recognize and respect the authority of our governing agencies, while understanding the decision of the Supreme Court giving perspective to the church's First Amendment rights to meet and worship. Through much discussion and deliberation it was concluded it is not the responsibility of the church to dictate whether an individual should or should not wear a mask. Our job is to be the church—to everyone. Therefore, regardless of your position on masks and the vaccine, or your ability to attend or not attend—choosing to watch us online, we desire to be the Body of Christ to you.

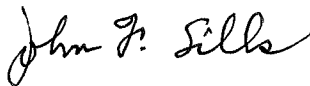
However, we ask that each of us assume the responsibility to be respectful of others and their position on this matter. The Bible is clear that we are to be non-judgmental, but rather loving and kind to one another. This is truly proof of our salvation and discipleship. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" John 13:35. This is our calling, this is a priority for us as the Body of Christ.

Be assured of our desire to provide ministry to everyone to the best of our ability. We believe God is at work among us, but the enemy will use anything and everything he can to counteract that and divide us. To be victorious, we must remain diligent in prayer, true to His word, loving and respectful of each other, and focus on the big picture, the glory, honor and desires of our God.

If you are able to join us for worship, know that we will have masks available and sanitation stations located throughout our facilities.

We pray the blessing, protection and peace of our God for you.

The Leadership of SEC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Sills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John Sills, Church Council Chair