



It is an absolutely beautiful day today as I am writing this article. The temperature is in the mid-70's and the sky is azure blue and cloudless. I guess it's just a normal Spring day in Dover. As I drove onto the property, I realized how thankful I am for the many volunteers who have been keeping everything looking so welcoming this Spring.

Cutting the grass, pulling weeds, trimming the shrubs and planting flowers have all contributed to the beauty of all that surrounds us as we come for worship, for meetings and for daily activities. Thank you to those who give their time and energy and make a difference.

As we step into the month of June we are blessed that we are finally seeing the smiles of those around us as the mask mandate for those who have been vaccinated for COVID 19 has been lifted. Last year in March, when it was necessary, we put on our masks, stopped gathering together, and we were all very, very careful because we didn't know how this virus was transmitted. So, we worshiped in our homes with the service recorded and shown online. In July, we were cautious and began to once again come into the sanctuary with temperatures recorded, hand sanitizer provided, safe distanced in the pews and wearing masks. We continued to worship God in new ways and shared that with others online who could not come to the building and others who were in other locations across the country and around the world. The time of worship was recorded, edited and broadcast with a special thanks to the work of Phil Steinhoff. Beginning on Christmas Eve and still continuing we are live streaming our time of worship so that those watching remotely are participating simultaneously with those in the sanctuary.

We give thanks to God for vaccines that provide protection against the virus. Cases of COVID are decreasing dramatically across the country and here in Delaware. Now mandates are lifted and capacities for gatherings have been restored and people only need to keep safely distanced. Those safe social distances have been reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet. **In our worship services** we are going to continue to use every other pew, but other seating restrictions have been removed. Per CDC and Delaware guidelines we hope that persons attending worship who have not been vaccinated will continue to wear masks. Those who are fully vaccinated can feel free to remove their mask when they are seated. Please plan to join us for worship as we share our gratitude to God.

This month we will have two opportunities to gather in fellowship as a church family. On Friday, June 11, the Board of Christian Education will have a **movie night** in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM. This will be a time for fun, food and fellowship for the first time in many, many months. An appropriate movie will be shown that will be good for all ages. Plan to attend.

On Sunday, June 27, a special Gideon speaker will share with us in worship on how Bibles are being put into the hands of those who desperately need them. After worship we will all enjoy **a picnic** in the Fellowship Hall that will overflow into the courtyard if



the weather permits. Plates, flatware, beverages, and an entrée will be provided and together we can all bring side dishes. More details will be shared on Sundays about what will be needed. Of course, that will also be a day when casual dress is expected. Put it on your calendar and plan to come together to share and get better acquainted with others in the church family.

May you be overwhelmed with blessings in these days.

Rev. Dan Taylor