

Report to the UUTC Board
Rev. Bob Renjilian
March 2022

PERSONAL:

- Christy came to visit down here in March, and her sisters at the same time for a visit (their first time to our home). I loved having family around, and the smell of the kitchen as they baked pies for the UUTC “Pi Day” fundraiser.
- My health continues to be good, and my Cardiologist took me off some meds and doesn’t need to see me for another year!
- It was fun to be in the Mardi Gras Parade in Asheville, with the Gay Men’s Chorus.
- I’m enjoying the spring weather and the ability to ride my e-bike to UUTC.

REFLECTION ON “NEXT NORMAL”

I have posted a chart showing mask effectiveness, to help people realize “My Mask Protects Me.” (See attached) As we move to mask-optional (target: Easter Sunday) for everyone, that is part of the reassurance for folks who might be concerned about breathing the air. The choir (which is tested on Sundays, unlike the congregation), has now moved to “mask optional”.

I continue to shop around for COVID-19 tests for the choir, and have bought a bulk order of a different brand test which saves us about \$3.20/person. I have enough on hand now to get us to mid-May. The disadvantage of this brand is choir will need to learn new instructions.

Pi-day was mask-optional at UUTC in mid-March. I made a contact tracing list just in case, but no reports of COVID happened. This was a fantastic social (and fundraising event) with a few people I had not seen at masked events.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:

I met with the newly expanded ARE group during half of team meeting night. I am glad we’ll have more eyes on this area of ministry! Thanks to RK Young for putting this on the calendar and encouraging some new members of the leader team.

I also led more sessions of the “Poetry and Meditation” class. We are half way through the curriculum.

PASTORAL CARE:

I have made phone calls, been available to talk with members, and met with LHHH. I went to visit at a nursing home, and met individually with a couple members at church.

I met with the UUs at College Walk at our March meeting. I had brought the topic of mentoring, and we also discussed religious responses to current events.

I had started planning for Lee Rush's memorial concert but we'll postpone that at Ginny's request.

Grief Group is now meeting with Ann Rabb and Sharon Gublo's leadership.

WORSHIP:

It is interesting to me that a large part of my preparation for worship is around CANdemic progress and listening to many different viewpoints of how we are ready-or-not for changes in the masking policy.

We've started producing a half-page cheat sheet (order of service) for Choir members to use as bookmarks, and I share that with the AV Team as well. A couple extra copies are at the greeter desk for visitors. In general I don't believe we should be producing them for the congregation, but I see the utility for the choir.

I was part of the camera crew for the April 10 worship service preparations. We met at the pond at Peter & Eleanor Mockridge's home. Janice Canon is now putting together the music videos.

I met with Kevin Lausch to do initial Easter Sunday planning. This will be an Intergenerational Sunday. There is a planned egg hunt after the first service, with a canned goods donation hunt mixed in. I will plan to hold the UU Communion Service between the two services, but work around the egg hunt timing.

OTHER MEETINGS:

I have coordinated with John Austin on live music for Sunday services, and with Janice Canon for recorded Sundays. I've coordinated with Vanessa Cowie, worship team, AV crew, and Michael Griffith (worship associate) as well. I have enjoyed being in the office when Carlene Ragan comes to practice, and a chance to chat.

Leader meetings: I met in person and electronically with RK Young and Staff. I met with Social Action leadership and any other group leaders as needed. I work with Kristin Leesment and the Pledge Drive team.

I am glad team meeting night has started. That gave me the chance to be present to the two teams (ARE and Facilities).

WIDER UU MOVEMENT:

I met again with a subgroup of the Unitarian Universalist Association Religious Education Credentialing Committee (on Zoom) as we envision how to improve our anti-

racism initiatives. I met with a UU Colleague who is leading their congregation towards where we are (open during COVID), and online with regional UU colleagues.

Attached is the masking chart I posted. I've had good conversations in meetings and during coffee hour about this. I'll include a chart from an article sent to me about liberal attitudes (generational) about masking policy changes too:

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

Originally published 1/10/22 Wall Street Journal

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

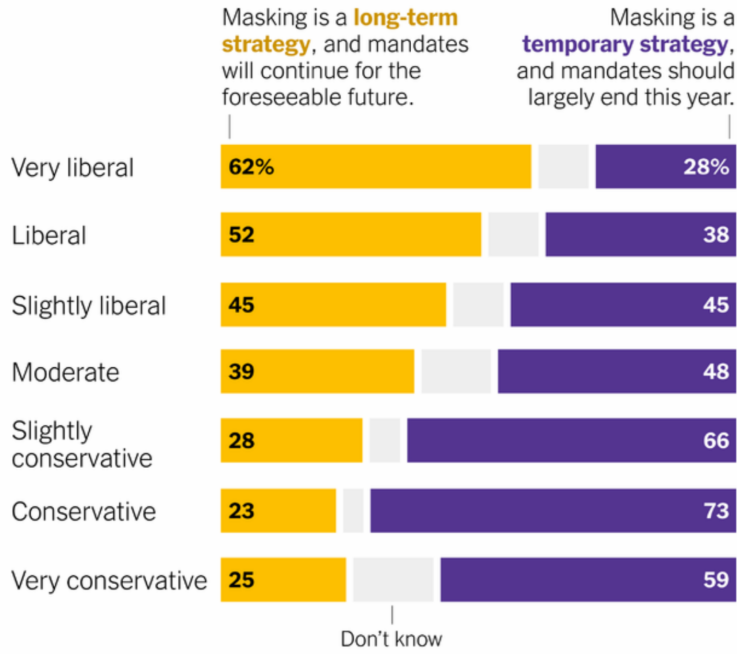
It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. **If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.**

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.

Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

- More than 60 percent of very liberal Americans believe that mask mandates should continue for the foreseeable future. Most moderates and conservatives see mandates as a temporary strategy that should end this year.

Opinions on masking strategy



From a survey of 2,210 adults in March 2022. | Source: Morning Consult

Personal safety

Does political ideology so strongly shape Covid beliefs?

