Dear Colleagues,

Easter is a special time of hope and renewal for our Christian community, and we are looking forward to celebrating Easter weekend with our students on campus next weekend. As a reminder, the University announced adjustments last semester to the 2021 spring academic calendar that are different from our typical Easter schedule. There are no classes on Friday, April 2, in recognition of Good Friday; but classes will be in session on Monday, April 5. This change was also designed to encourage students to stay on campus during this long weekend, and our colleagues in Campus Ministries are providing students several opportunities to commemorate and celebrate our hopeful faith in the risen Christ. Highlights include a Maundy Thursday Communion Service, a Good Friday Service, and an Outdoor Easter Sunday Service at Shoemaker Field. The University will also be hosting special recreational activities for students, as well as a special Easter brunch menu in Lottie.

**What this means for employees**

Undergraduate teaching faculty will receive direct communication from the Provost's Office regarding expectations during this time period. Administrative and staff employees who are not assigned to work will receive Good Friday per usual as an employee holiday. Those employees who are assigned to work during Easter weekend should have already received related information directly from their supervisor. Work-study supervisors will soon be receiving separate communication regarding expectations and incentives for student workers during Easter weekend.

**Expectations for students**

The University is asking and expecting students to stay on campus during the Easter weekend. Protecting our Messiah “bubble” is important to keeping our community healthy and being able to maintain an in-person experience for the rest of the semester. Students who must leave campus for essential travel have been reminded that they are required to wear a mask and maintain social distance while away from campus (even at home with their family) Students who are unable/do not mask or maintain distance for their entire time off campus have already been informed that they are subject to quarantine, additional testing and/or enhanced health and safety protocols.*

**A reminder for employees**

With the Easter holiday approaching, on-campus employees are also reminded about the need to mask and socially distance at all times when they are with others outside of their immediate family household, and that this expectation is confirmed on the daily health screening questions.* We are working proactively to avoid a campus outbreak at this point in the semester and do not want any community members to miss out on important events in the weeks ahead including end-of-the-year concerts, performances, presentations, academic events, or Commencement festivities.

To protect the health of our university and surrounding community, Messiah will be continuing its weekly surveillance testing of residential and commuter students and employees through the end of the spring semester. Thank you for your continued care and support of our students as we work together to keep our campus safe and healthy and open and in-person.

— The Messiah University Integration and Response Team

*Note: Messiah released new information this week addressing on- and off-campus requirements for students and employees who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.*