



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF HUMMELSTOWN

July 14, 2021

Dear friends,

With the significant decrease in COVID-19 cases in our community, and the continued rise in vaccinations, the Gift Team Board as decided to end our current masks for all protocol and now ask you make the personal decision to unmask or remain masked, as is best for you and your family.

Personally, as a parent of a young child, I will likely continue to mask in some situations. This decision is not a reflection of trust for anyone, but is a statement of the continuing changing nature of the pandemic and the health of the unvaccinated and vulnerable.

Masks and sanitizer stations will continue to be available in the church if you would like them for yourself or your family. Communion and the passing of the peace will continue to be done in the pews, and physical distancing is still encouraged. We will not be checking or asking for vaccination, but continue to encourage everyone who can, to vaccinate when possible.

There are still many in our community who are vulnerable for various reasons, and this decision may create a level of stress for you. If you are concerned and would like to talk more about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected you and your family, please reach out to me at any time.

As has always been the case, we will continue to provide multiple paths to engagement in worship, education and fellowship, as best we can. We continue to evaluate and modify our systems and technology to encourage your participation. If there is a way of engaging with the church that you need assistance with, please contact me, the office or the Gift Team Board to discuss your needs.

In this time of public health awareness, we are also encouraging everyone to be thoughtful about what is meaningful, safe and best practice to maintain a healthy community, which is more than pandemic protocols. Our faith tells us that God seeks our wholeness and wholehearted attention, and the health of our bodies, our spirits, our mental health, a fulfilling social life and an ability to live in the present moment are part of living into God's faithful attention. This year, this month, this week, this day, I pray that you find the Divine presence in the presence of your community supporting you.

May you be well.

- Pastor Beth

"I'm praying that all is well with you and that you enjoy good health in the same way that you prosper spiritually."

*3rd Letter of John 1:2*