



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF HUMMELSTOWN

May 19, 2020

Dear Congregation,

As we start to see more news stories about parts of our state reopening, we know that many of you are curious about how that will impact Hummelstown United Church of Christ. Pastor Beth and the members of the Gift Team Board are together working closely to review the most up-to-date information, relying on guidance from the Penn Central Conference of the UCC, the [phased plan](#) for reopening set forth by Pennsylvania's Governor, and the [CDC's](#) recommendations. We have not yet finalized the details of our church re-opening, or the date on which it may open, but we assure you that we will move forward carefully and thoughtfully with the health and safety of our church community as our first priority.

Currently, our county is in the Red Phase, which means that a stay at home order is in effect, and there is a ban on large gatherings. The next phase is Yellow, which lifts some restrictions on businesses and social gatherings. During this phase, gatherings cannot be larger than 25 people, and can only occur if strict cleaning protocols, social distancing, and mask rules are followed. The green phase represents a return to a "new normal", with most restrictions lifted and a requirement to follow all CDC guidelines.

We will not resume church activities in person until we are sure we can do so safely. When in-person small groups and worship services do eventually start again (and they will), it's important to realize that they may not be exactly as they were before. This situation has caused things to change, and it will continue to challenge our flexibility and resilience. You can expect to continue to hear from us as our path to re-opening becomes clearer.

Many of us are finding that we are approaching our limits of social isolation, changing expectations, and the stress caused by this pandemic. It's hard. We all want it to be over, and we find ourselves questioning just how much more we can take. We don't have easy answers to offer you, but what we can offer is our sincere love and concern for the people of Hummelstown UCC. Whether you have been a part of this church community for a lifetime or a short while, there is a circle of support here for you when you need it. Please reach out to the church office, check in on each other, and be a reflection of God's love in the world. We love you, God loves you, and we will get through this together.

The Gift Team Board & Pastor Beth