



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF HUMMELSTOWN

RE-GATHERING PLAN

In-person worship option starts September 20th

Hello friends, this year has so far been a confusing, frustrating one, hasn't it? And changes will continue to be coming at us. As the saying goes, the only constant is change.

Throughout the summer, the clarity of the science of the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to develop, and given the current situation, the Gift Team Board and I feel we are ready now to thoughtfully move toward in person worship and gathering again.

While this is comforting for some who are really feeling the lack of connection, it can also feel concerning to others and I want to make space in our community for both of those emotions to be heard. The Board has decided that we will begin to hold services in the building once again **starting September 20th**.

NOT READY TO RETURN? For those who do not feel comfortable returning at this point due to increased personal or family risk, please note that our current Facebook Live worship will continue. We will continue to stream our

services for the foreseeable future, and encourage you to continue to share them with family and friends in several different formats. Check out the *Digital Worship* Page included here for more information.

READY TO GATHER? For those who are excited by the opportunity to be in the building, read on to the next few pages to read more about the changes implemented to worship so that when we gather in person, we do our best to limit everyone's risk of exposure.

We have a responsibility to care for the health and well-being of all in our community, including our most vulnerable populations. As we embark upon this process, we ask you to focus on this commitment to all disciples and friends of the congregation by following through, and helping others to do the same.

Remember what Jesus said when asked about the Greatest Commandment, "Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself". Let us show our love for all.

—Pastor Beth

GUIDELINES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

If you have concerns about attending in person, speak with Pastor Beth or the Gift Team Board. These guidelines will help us take as much precaution as possible while we support our need for connectivity!

- If you do not feel well, stay home and engage with digital worship.
- Sanctuary capacity is limited to 25 due to the regulations of the Governor and CDC guidance.
- All attendees will wear a mask, fitted closely over both nose and mouth anytime in the building.
- Only the doors at the corner of Water and Main Streets will be open for worship. Use of the side entrance is limited to office hours.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- Maintain 6 feet distance between you and others at all times, paying special attention to times in doorways and smaller areas.
- Pews are marked off to establish 6 feet of space between each family group. Bulletins will be placed into the pews before worship, and left there after service, unless you would like to take it home with you.
- Bring your own communion elements for communion Sundays.
- Faith Formation will not begin immediately with worship, when ready, to start, greater space between individuals will be set up.
- At the end of worship, immediately exit outside the building. Fellowship hour will not happen in the building. When outside, you are encouraged to continue to use your mask and must maintain space between yourself and others.
- **If there is a dramatic increase in local cases, or we receive guidance from Pennsylvania Department of Health or the CDC to stop in person worship, a letter and email will go out to immediately shift back to digital only worship.**

We are blessed to be in community together, journeying together in faith.

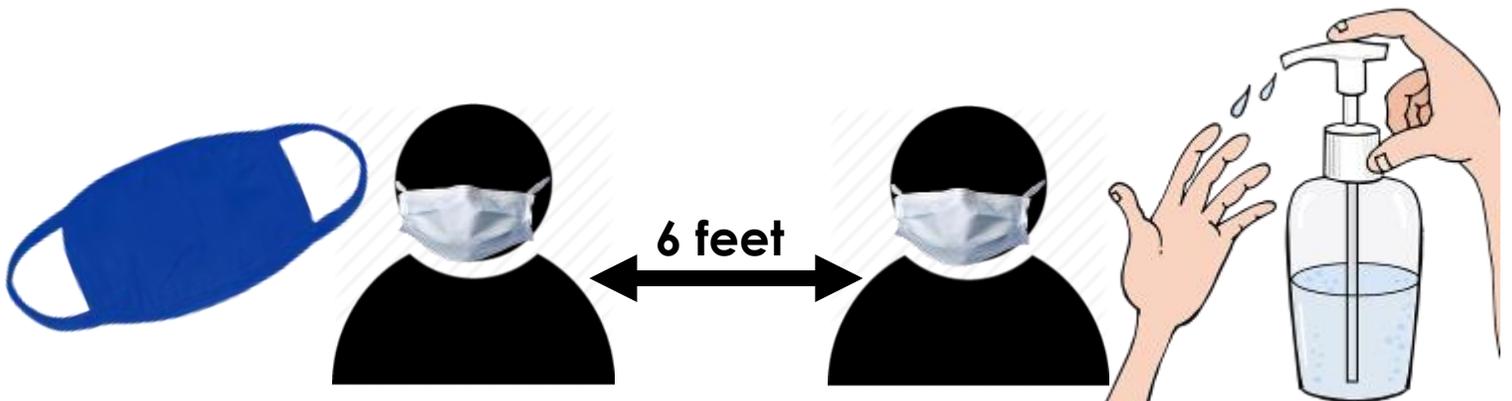
Covenant of Care in a Time of Pandemic

As the disciples of the UCC of Hummelstown, we covenant to work with the whole body of Christ through our participation in this community of faith, with family and friends, and with the willingness to do what is needed to keep the community safe and healthy.

As covenantal partners attending this worship, we covenant to...

- **Wear a face mask** fit closely over both nose and mouth as an outward expression of my love and care for others.
- **Sit six feet apart** from those outside my family group, leaving room to feel God's presence in the in-between
- Honor and respect the sacredness of each person by **staying home** if I do not feel well and will reach out for resources or digital worship.
- **Work together** with my church family to create space for those who continue to worship digitally and those who are present in person, to feel united in God's love.
- Acknowledge that the new or modified ways of worship may feel foreign, so I will continue to **seek the Still Speaking God** who breathes into the newness of this moment.

As disciples, we acknowledge the work ahead and declare our commitment to sustaining compassionate, healthy, and welcoming space for all expressions of the journey of faith. Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways, embracing God's still-speaking voice, present in my soul when actively maintaining these boundaries and reminding others to do the same.



WAYS TO SERVE IN WORSHIP

In Person worship will require our traditional roles in worship to change, but your participation is still needed and wanted.

When we worship in-person, we will reopen the call for Ushers/Greeters, and Counting teams and a new position of Tech teams. No one expects everyone who has volunteered in the past to assist now. It is a personal decision to be made whether you are comfortable serving. Please prayerfully consider if you would like to be included in the usher/greeter list, if your counting team is ready to return, and if you are willing to assist with monitoring the live stream from the computer during worship. Want to know more about what these teams will be doing? Check it out here...

Usher/Greeter (Only scheduling 1 Greeter and 1 Usher each Sunday)

Be the friendly face to welcome to church. To encourage less contact and more self service, ushers will give directions to where offering plates and bulletins are to be found, but are not handing out anything or picking up offering plates.

Counting Teams *Receive offerings and contributions.* Counting teams will take the offering plates from the sanctuary and count and deposit the weekly income. Gloves and sanitizer are available for use as desired.

Technology *Monitor online stream and manage video camera.*

This new position will sit with the camera to ensure there are no concerns with the online livestream to Facebook, and will move the video camera as needed. You do not have to be extremely knowledgeable about the system, but willing to learn the basics.

To volunteer for any worship participation call or email the office today!

717-566-8893 hucc@hummelstownucc.org

IMPORTANT: If you are not feeling well, think you or a family member may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact Pastor Beth, or Bill and Thelma Shumway prior to worship and STAY HOME. It is better to seek a substitute or ask for a volunteer on Sunday than to expose the congregation.

DIGITAL WORSHIP

Live Stream Sundays

@10:30 am



Toll free call in to 1-888-958-7272.
Access code shared weekly in the bulletin and on Facebook.

Or attend with video online:

<https://www.facebook.com/HummelstownUCC/live>

- Look for the Red **LIVE** in the corner of the current video.
- 10:20 am the stream goes live with announcements until worship begins.

Missed the live service?



Check the YouTube Channel for previous full length worship services. Subscribe to the channel on YouTube to get notifications when new content is posted.

<https://tinyurl.com/HUCCYouTube>

Want a podcast version?



Sermon audio is now available on several different podcast services. Podcast versions allow you to check in on worship when you don't have much time, or if you only want to listen to message. The podcast version will only contain the sermon, or other devotional resources from time to time.

- Available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google and more.
- Search for "Hummelstown UCC Podcast" in your podcast service to subscribe.
- Check it out, and remember to share with your friends and family!

Audio versions are also available directly on our website:

<https://www.hummelstownucc.org/pastors-corner.html>

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!" Romans 8:38-39

