



St. Mary's Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

189 Hwy. 347 Aspen NS B0H 1E0

9 June 2020

Dear Friends,

Phase two of Nova Scotia's Covid 19 reopening plan is expected to begin on June 16 and last until June 30.

Faith gatherings can have up to 10 people indoors and up to 25 people outdoors with social distancing. Drive-in faith services have no limit on the number of vehicles, but you can only be in a vehicle with your household (the people you live with).

Wedding ceremonies and funerals (including receptions and visitation) can have up to 10 people plus the person conducting the ceremony indoors and up to 25 people plus the person conducting the ceremony outdoors.

This means that bible study, UCW, Men's group, JAM Club and Youth Group are finished until the fall, although we may have some events throughout the summer months.

However, since an indoor gathering of up to ten people is allowed, the board chairs, treasurers and I will meet at Kirk on Thursday, June 17, 7pm to look at re-opening plans for summer worship as well as my holidays. All Covid 19 protocols will be followed. We will provide an update after we have met.

Phase three is expected to begin on June 30.

Faith gatherings that are run by a business or organization - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 100 people indoors and up to 150 people outdoors with social distancing.

Wedding ceremonies and funerals (including receptions and visitation) - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors with social distancing when hosted by a business or organization.

Phase four is expected to begin on July 14.

Faith gatherings that are run by a business or organization - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 150 people indoors and up to 250 people outdoors with social distancing.

Wedding ceremonies and funerals (including receptions and visitation) - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 150 people indoors and up to 250 people outdoors with social distancing when hosted by a business or organization.

Since May, our buildings have been closed, but we have continued to provide online resources for weekly worship, giving, and government information about Covid19 and community health and wellbeing. We have also continued to provide pastoral care to those in need, communicated with JAM Club, Youth Group and Bible Study participants, conducted marriages and funerals, supported the work of the food bank and supported the wider mission of the church. I have also kept busy getting some things done around the Manse! House has been pressure washed, deck stained and foundation painted.

We will soon be delivering activities and gifts for our JAM Club kids, and for youth group participants who are graduating high school.

I know this has been a difficult time for many. We are tired of uncertainty, anxiety, upheaval and isolation. But there is light at the end! So, let us hold each other in prayer. Together, with everyone doing their part, we will get there! God is with us.

It helps to know you're with me, Lord,
as I am in this trial.
To know that you will walk with me,
each step, and every mile.
To know you hold the future
and you're not constrained by time.
But most of all, it helps to know,
I'm *always* on your mind.

Anne Peterson

Thank you to all who have continued to support this ministry in any way. We are blessed, and we are thankful!

In Christ's Service,



Derek Elsworth

Minister