



111 Larch Street | Sudbury, ON P3E 4T5 Canada | 705 674 0721 | www.st-andrews.ca/church

August 25, 2021

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

After such a long, challenging journey - we bring you greetings.

Heeding the call of Jesus to “*Love our Neighbours*” has meant caring for one another by respecting all the COVID protocols, checking in with phone calls and emails, and distancing ourselves from those we love.

This summer has meant that you may have hugged a grandchild, a son, or a daughter for the first time in a long time. Jesus speaks of loving your neighbor as yourself. We have done that for sure.

God willing, we are seeing the possibility for worshiping together in the Sanctuary again in September at St. Andrew’s, even as we continue to respect the health protocols to protect and love one another.

Rev. Dave and many of our volunteer leaders, in consultation with St. Andrew’s Place Board, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, the Canadian Shield Regional Council and the United Church of Canada, have been working in recent weeks to discern how to move forward for the fall worship season.

St. Andrew's Church Council met on August 19th to approve a return to in-person worship in the sanctuary beginning on **Sunday September 12th (the Sunday after Labor Day)**. Until then, services will continue to be pre-recorded, and posted to our YouTube channel by Saturday evening.

Starting on the 12th, our services will also be live streamed at 10:30 am.

Those who cannot or choose not to attend in person would have two options to view the service: watch it live at 10:30 am, or watch it later after a recording of the service is posted to YouTube.

The virtual Fellowship Hour will continue to be hosted by Bev and Diane on Sundays at 7pm.

A Task Group has developed an extensive list of precautionary protocols and procedures in keeping with current best practices recommended by local and provincial public health authorities and the United Church of Canada. The list is attached to this letter as a separate document.

Many of the people involved in the decision-making process are now working diligently to recruit the volunteers, rearrange the seating and the sound booth (now located at the back of the sanctuary), and put in place the necessary safeguards that we hope will help to alleviate any potential concerns.

If you are willing to serve as a volunteer, please refer to the attached “Request for Sunday Volunteers” letter for more details on how you can sign up.

The Church and Place will continue to monitor the public health situation on a daily basis. We will share more information and updates in subsequent editions of the weekly NEWS.

If you have any questions or concerns about Council’s decision to return to worship, please contact either of our Church Council co-chairs.

Rev. Dave Le Grand
Minister

Phil Thurston and Ralph McIntosh, Council Co-Chairs
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GROWING SPIRITUALLY, BUILDING COMMUNITY, TRANSFORMING LIVES