

Nelson United Church



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September 28th, 2020

To the Members of Nelson United Church

Hello Everyone.

Greeting

In the name of the One who gives life, our Companion and Source of Courage, I bid you greetings.

As we enter the fall, the number of COVID-19 cases continues to escalate. While we thought we might be able to incrementally increase our numbers attending worship, it has been decided to have 20 attendees attend worship. Our health leaders are urging caution with respect to gathering indoors and as a church community, we want to err on the side of caution as everyone's well-being is important.

Limited Attendance at Sunday Worship

Sunday worship continues to be invitation-only attendance. However, two things the Board decided at its September meeting to help us feel more connected in worship: Invite, on a rotational basis, 9 different people to attend worship every Sunday morning AND hold a second, duplicate service at 3:30 on special Sundays.

1. On regular Sunday mornings, there are 9 spots available for people in the congregation to attend to make the total number attending 20 (staff, worship leaders, ushers, and others). What we are proposing to do is to pull nine names from a hat. Judy Cameron will call those 9 individuals the week before to see if they can attend—couples will be able to attend and sit together but will be counted as 2 people. The cycle of Sundays will be determined by the number of people who have expressed a desire to attend worship; at last count, that will likely be a cycle lasting 6-8 weeks. Once your name has been pulled from the hat and you are able to attend worship, you will not be eligible for worship attendance until the next cycle. This seems the fairest way to designate Sundays for people to attend. If you are not able to attend the Sunday your name is pulled from the hat, your name will be placed back into the pool. To help people feel connected in worship and to be able to attend, we will hold a second worship—see #2 below.
2. The Board has decided on special occasions, at least once per month, to hold a second service at 3:30 Sunday afternoon. Our first special Sunday will be Thanksgiving, which is October 11th. Sixteen (16) names will be pulled from the hat, with the above guidelines applying. So, the cycle of weeks includes the special services. There will be another special service in November and again in December.

We Welcome Your Feedback and Comment

We do not know yet what we will do for Christmas but suffice to say that all indications are that we will not be gathering in large numbers. The Worship Planning team will determine how the Advent Christmas season will unfold.

The Board will be meeting again in October; please do not hesitate to contact a Board member or me to offer comments or give feedback. Our Board is comprised of Chairperson Linda Mae Findlay, Secretary Kathy Baker, Treasurer Leah Gray, Members-at-large Berdine Jonker and Jasmine Lysenko.

Peace and blessings to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David", is written below the text.