

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

We hope this letter finds you well both physically and mentally after many months of our Covid distancing from each other. Fortunately, our summer weather has been wonderful, allowing for our outside gatherings with friends and family. Our next hope is for our beautiful weather to continue through the fall so we are able to extend our times spent outdoors.

Slowly through the months we've been watching and monitoring our businesses open up to the public in various ways, allowing us to remain safe. Masks have become mandatory and our new norm as we continue to practice our safe distancing.

Our church however has physically remained close while our services have remained open on line. Many, many thanks to Pastor Dave and Sue for keeping up with technology and supporting our spiritual needs virtually. We too have adapted to our new way of "going to church". Some of us listen to church at the cottage, some of us are sitting on our front porch with a coffee. However it is that we 'go to church' it brings comfort to know that we are still connected as we gather in spirit in this new way. For those that live in Wellesley, you are able to listen to our church bells ringing on Sunday morning. Thank you to the Scheerer family for ringing bells on Sunday, bringing that piece of joy into our hearts.

As most of you are following the news, September is bringing on a new set of challenges as our school age children head back to school. There is a lot of anxiety around this next step of re-opening. Many questions and unknown factors are coming to light and will be addressed in the days ahead.

Given this information, Church Council has decided that in the best interest in the health and well being of the congregation we will postpone our re-opening of the church. When we take our next step forward we will be carefully considering all of the science and facts from the September re-opening of our schools. It is our hope that we will be able to move forward in October to offer both "in church" and "on line" Sunday Service. As Canadians, we have been extremely successful in our fight against Covid. We all must remain vigilant and respectful of each other to continue the success of our efforts thus far. Taking care of each other is the best way we can practice God's Love for us all.

As council meets again, we will keep you informed on our re-opening decisions. The best decisions are made with gathered information. Please feel free to contact any member of council or Pastor Dave and Sue to share your thoughts. We welcome your opinions!

Stay Well, Stay Connected,

With Warm Regards, Church Council