



## **First United Church**

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*"...called by the Spirit to be a caring community of faith  
actively pursuing spiritual growth and compassionate outreach"*

September 3, 2021

### **Letter to the Congregation of First United Church: Returning to In-person Worship**

Hey Folks

Council met last night to discuss among other things the question: "Do we return to in-person worship?" We heard recommendations from the Worship and Music Committee and then went around the group discussing the opportunities, as well as the challenges. The following facts/questions were considered: the numbers of infections have gone up, many of us are vaccinated, we need to find a new normal, and what about those that will still be unable to attend? With many thanks to the efforts of the Worship and Music Committee combined with the thoughtful input of council members we present to you our plan:

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we will return to In-person worship with the following restrictions:**

- 1. mandatory masking;**
- 2. hand sanitizing upon entering;**
- 3. maintain physical distancing;**
- 4. no congregational singing;**
- 5. no gathering after worship for coffee and fellowship; and**
- 6. choir will be limited to four members in the choir loft.**
- 7. To be reviewed each month at our church council meetings.**

**Funerals and weddings will be held in-person with these restrictions:**

- 1. a maximum of 200 people for a wedding or funeral in the sanctuary;**
- 2. any number over 200 will be seated in the gym; and**
- 3. all restrictions for Sunday services will be applied.**

**Finally, we looked at other COVID-19 concerns and agreed**

- 1. That we remove the 30 people limit to the rest of the rooms in the building.**
- 2. That we allow funeral lunches in the gym.**
- 3. That we will provide livestream programming for those unable to attend services in person.**

We have had a year and half of keeping each other safe and as we return remember we are not out of the woods. If you don't feel well, please take the time to heal and join us on live stream or the radio Sunday afternoon. We appreciate all you have done for each other in this trying time and look forward to seeing you all again

Peace Be Upon You

Kevin Hanna

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hanna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Chair of Council  
First United Church  
Swift Current, SK