

Many of you have read or heard the announcement by the government that churches across Ontario are able to open this week at 30% capacity. **Sharon Hope United Church is not yet ready to open.** We want to make sure that everyone is safe as we start the process of reopening the church building.

Your Church Council is meeting this evening and will discuss the measures needed to insure that everyone is safe as we begin to welcome people back into the building and sanctuary. We will need to determine new practices that will need to be implemented. These will include:

- reviewing cleaning processes before opening the building and ongoing practices
- discussing the use and availability of masks / hand sanitizer
- creating a method to keep track of people in the space for public health, should someone test positive
- as we resume in person worship, developing new practices regarding spacing of people, greeting, and changes in worship traditions.

We will need to have these new processes in place before small meetings can resume. In person worship services will not resume until we are comfortable that smaller gatherings are safe and our new procedures are working well.

We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

Last Sunday we were able to have our 1st worship service by Zoom. The feedback received was very positive. We will continue to have worship on Zoom and encourage everyone to join us either by video on computer or other device, or by phone. Even as we resume in person worship, we will continue with Zoom services to allow those who wish to delay your return to the building to join in community.

I want to continue my thanks of everyone's efforts during this challenging time to maintain the strong connections which are such an integral part of Sharon Hope United Church. This is a community that has continued to care for one another in so many ways!

Praying that you are safe and well,

Betty Trach, Chair of Council