

WHEN WILL WE GET BACK INTO OUR MEETING HOUSE?

As we continue this day to day walk facing this virus of unknown origin which has gone from a whisper in Asia to a full blown world-wide pandemic, it is only natural that we long for, “the way things used to be.” We hear many people sharing their desire for us to, “get back to normal.”

During the Church Committee of the Campton Congregational Church meetings we have discussed the locations and procedures for our services. It has been during those meetings that the decision has been made to continue to meet via Zoom and on the Campton Congregational Church Facebook Group Page. At the last Church Committee meeting an Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to consider our options as we move forward. The Committee will meet again on Thursday July 30th to review the information we have on the spread of Covid-19 at that time.

For now we are formulating a plan with the information we have at hand. Please understand that we will modify this plan as new information becomes available.

In the past few months we have learned that:

- A person may carry Covid-19 and be contagious without showing any symptoms
- Testing negative to Covid-19 on any given day does not mean you will be negative the next day
- Covid-19 is far more contagious than first thought
- Covid-19 may be—through new discovery or through mutation—an airborne contagion.
- The number of cases is on a very large upswing in many states across our nation.
- Masks worn by a person carrying the disease give those near the person a 72% greater chance of being protected from the virus.

With all this information at hand our Ad-Hoc committee is beginning to form a picture of what returning to the Meeting House will look like. Our new normal will include but not be limited to the following:

- Reservations for the service being required each week
- Arrival should be just before the service begins (no fellowship before the service)
- Before entering the building masks will be in place
- Before entering the building temperatures will be taken, (if a fever is present, no admittance)
- There will be no bulletins, though we may project information on the screen
- People will be directed to designated seats, everyone will remain there for the entire service
- Except for family units, people must be seated at least 6 feet apart.
- We will only fill to 40 % of our seating capacity
- Attendance will be taken
- Contact information will be gathered, making it possible to share information if someone finds that they were ill though a-symptomatic while attending
- There will be no unison prayer (as even with masks this intensifies possible contagion)
- There will be no unison singing (as even with masks this intensifies possible contagion)
- Everyone will stay in their designated seats during the service
- People will be excused by the usher
- Bathrooms will be used ONLY for emergencies
- People are to go directly to their vehicles following the service
- There is no Fellowship Time following Worship

Because while on line we are able to have Fellowship before and after the service, and Jim has been able to incorporate our musical introductions and hymns into the service, and we are able to sing along from our homes, we find that Worship from home is a closer fit to our “Normal,” than gathering in the Meeting House at this time. We will meet again Thursday, July 30th to review current data and update our recommendations.

Thank you for your patience as we go forward with a multitude of caution.

God bless you,
Moderator Alan, Deacon Brenda Boisvert,
Deacon Patricia Williams, Juli Fleck
Pastors Russ and Cindy Petrie