



# St. Albert United Church

an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada

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## Time to Pause

Since returning to in-person worship this September, our congregation has respected and adhered to safety protocols that not only met but exceeded mandates issued by the Government of Alberta, and we have been below our allowable capacity every Sunday. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank those of you who have embraced these rules and who have kept our space safe as we gathered.

But with current infection rates reaching such alarming levels, and hospital capacity nearing a tipping point in the Capital Region, the Council of St. Albert United Church has decided that the church should pause our gathering. Council and our Ministry Personnel have held weekly discussions as the case rates have steadily climbed and on Monday night we voted to suspend in-person worship for at least the next two weeks. To be clear, **there will be no in-person worship at SAUC on Dec. 13, Dec. 16 or Dec. 20.** Our decision was made prior to Tuesday's government announcement of further restrictions.

Council remains confident in our safety protocols and we all acknowledge the importance of meeting face to face, especially when people may be feeling more isolated than ever. We are painfully aware of how important and significant the Advent season is for people and we desperately hope to be able to hold an in-person Christmas Eve service, and feel this measure offers the best chance of doing so. Our plan is to record worship services each week and to share them on our YouTube channel every Sunday morning when we would normally be meeting. Please stay tuned for further details in the coming days.

The decision to pause in-person worship was not made lightly and our hope is that each of you will understand and appreciate that the health and safety of our church community is our most sacred responsibility. With this in mind, our church office will be closed and our office administrator Laurie Symbaluk will be working from home starting next week. She will be checking voice messages at the church daily and will have access to her email from home.

We will share more information as it becomes available; please visit <https://stalbertunited.ca/> or the SAUC Facebook page for updates.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, and we welcome any questions or feedback.

St. Albert United Church Council

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