



# St. Albert United Church

an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada

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## Step Back to Move Forward...

Since we began worshipping in person again on July 11<sup>th</sup>, it has become very apparent how much our congregation needed to reconnect with each other. The warmth and fellowship that has been so evident every Sunday morning has been truly uplifting and we would like to thank everyone for continuing to support St Albert United Church.

In the last communique from Council in July, we had highlighted that the Covid protocols heading into the launch of our new programming year would be decided closer to September. The congregational survey had clearly identified two criteria that needed to be met before most members would be prepared for further lifting of Covid protocols: a high vaccination rate and a low case count.

While the vaccination rate in our community has been excellent, the steady rise of Covid cases in the Edmonton area is cause for concern. Church Council met last night to discuss our path forward into the new Church year and we reached a clear consensus. We all felt the need to continue to worship in person and we all felt the need to tighten up our protocols.

Starting this Sunday, **September 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will require that attendees wear their masks throughout the worship service. Presiders, readers and singers will also need to remain masked. We will continue to promote social distancing and ask that people leave room between cohorts as they gather in the sanctuary. We will be serving coffee for our time of fellowship after the service this Sunday, but no food or drink will be served following church until further notice going forward. We will continue to encourage people to visit after church without refreshments.

The masking rule will also be in effect for anyone visiting the church and for any SAUC groups who meet at the church.

We will also continue to use fans to promote the flow of fresh air through the sanctuary and will continue to follow the ongoing studies into the effectiveness of air filtration systems in battling Covid and other airborne illnesses.

This news may be disappointing to some of you, but we hope that you bear in mind that the safety of our members is our greatest concern. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please contact Troy Sartison (780-965-7445) with your comments.

Blessings,  
Church Council

Our Mission: As followers of Jesus, we cultivate spaces where everyone has room to grow; we share God's hope for the Earth.