



ST JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Come Be Yourself

An Affirming Ministry

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Warmest Greetings:

Doesn't it seem like a long time since we were able to sit elbow to elbow in Room 9 sipping a coffee, tea or juice and catching up on one another's news? How we've missed those in-person connecting times! Perhaps you have missed them as well? It feels like a long nineteen months!

With ever-changing requirements including social distancing and masking, and various provincial mandates including limits on how many people (and households) could gather, the challenges around connecting have been very real! But you continue to meet the challenges with faithfulness and love! It has been a joy and a blessing for us to witness how you support and encourage one another.

In March of 2020, when the pandemic was declared we were sure it would be, if not behind us, then certainly under control by now. But it would appear that Covid-19 and its variants are having other ideas. It has been a challenging 19 months on so many levels. We know that some in our congregation have been feeling isolated, anxious, depressed, and fearful (to mention a few feelings). For some in our community of faith these feelings continue.

St. James Council (consisting of many dedicated members of the congregation) plus the Council Sub-Committee on Covid (consisting of Richard Hazel, Patty Humphreys, Randy Graham, Danna Wiebe, Charlotte Miller, Diane Robinson, and until her retirement, Laura Sundberg) have done their best to keep our congregation and the wider community safe and healthy. Both the Council and sub-committee have taken seriously their *duty of care* to you and to the wider community of Regina. On an ongoing basis both have faithfully and conscientiously examined/discussed provincial health policies as well as the specific needs of the St. James community of faith. These things your Council and its sub-committee will continue to do.

As a colleague has observed: "We might not all be in the same boat; however we are definitely in the same storm." As we continue to navigate our way through this Covid "storm" please know you **are** in our prayers. We **wish** to strengthen and encourage you; and we **certainly** long to see you.

Please call us if you would like to chat.
We are here.
Standing by.

Be kind. Be safe. Be love.

Danna Wiebe and Diane Robinson
Ministers-On-Staff