

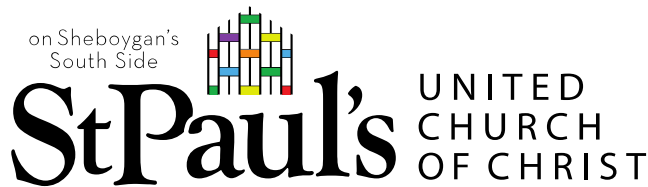
*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

Hello St. Paul's church family,

The consistory met once again via zoom June 10. A survey was mailed out to the entire church (and emailed as well) so that we might better gauge where we are as a congregation about how and when to begin opening our building. We received 70 surveys back from the congregation about comfort levels of returning to church. We also received numerous comments about how people were doing. The consistory read through the entire set of comments, which will be shared on the church blog. We all appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and opinions with us so that we can make better informed decisions.

Here are the results of the survey. For the month of June 60% of the congregation said they would feel safer at home and worshipping online and 20% said they would like to worship in person. The remaining 20% were undecided. For the month of July our largest group at 43% is in the undecided camp, with 33% preferring to stay at home and 24% wishing to worship in person. When we come to August 55% remain undecided, 40% would like to worship in person, and 5% would feel safer at home.

Many of the comments, especially those in the undecided group, said that returning to worship for them would be contingent on two main things: 1) how the spread of Covid-19 is being handled in our community; and 2) what worship would be like with the needed safety measures in place. While we have little control of how our fellow community members will respond to the health department's guidance, we do have the ability to share what worship would be like. With all of this in mind, here is how the consistory has decided to proceed.



- 1) Based on congregational response and the guidance of the consistory, St. Paul's will not be open for physical worship in the month of June. We do not feel we have the congregational support or the necessary safety precautions put in place.
- 2) We are diligently working out a plan to reopen the church as safely as possible. The timeline on when that will happen is still being worked out. A small group will be gathering in the next few days to go over safety procedures and protocols to ensure we are being as safe as possible for when we return to worship in the sanctuary.
- 3) The consistory will be meeting weekly as we get our protocols and procedures in place, while we monitor how Covid-19 is affecting our local community.
- 4) We will be investing in our online worship capabilities, so that no one will be excluded from worshipping together (be that in-person or online).
- 5) We will create a point of view video "showing" what worship would be like with these safety precautions in place.

As with all things in the life of the church, we are never of one mind. We know that these developments will be frustrating to some and others will feel that we are moving in the right direction. We ask for your patience and prayers as we continue to work on behalf of body of Christ at St. Paul's U.C.C.

Yours in Christ,

John Brown Jr (president), Jim Schwarten (vice-president), Rhoda Cheney, Steve Flook, Rev. Jeremy Hylan, Melody Kolb, April Koranda, Joann Laux, Bruce Neils, Greg Peterson, Vicki Radovan, Deb Severns, Mason White