Members and Friends of Bolton United Church

We hope this message finds you well and that you have found God’s support and love during these trying times.

We have news we want to share with you.

Firstly we have made the decision to reopen for worship services, starting on Sunday September 13. We really feel that as a congregation, it will be beneficial to all of our spirits to meet in person with each other and know and feel the support we can give each other during these times. Accordingly we will hold our service at 10 am as usual, as long as the region stays in Stage 3, however, there will be many changes to how we operate in line with appropriate safeguards, due to the Pandemic.

In order to maintain physical distancing, for Sunday services we:

* have created one entry door to the building, which is the one at the back of the parking lot, near the stairs to the office. The front doors to the Sanctuary are not an entrance, they are now only an exit from the Sanctuary.
* are asking all attendees for worship and meetings to sign in a register upon entry (for contact tracing purposes and in line with the Peel Public Health guidelines) and to wear a mask (disposable masks are available if you forget yours) and use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. We also ask that if you are experiencing any symptoms, or know you have been exposed to anyone with the virus, that you stay home and stay safe.
* the chair lift is available and working, for anyone who finds the stairs challenging (it will be wiped down after each use by the Chair lift operator) If you require the use of the Chair lift to exit the building, please remain in your pew seat until everyone else has left the sanctuary and we will help you to exit out the Entrance door as a special exception
* have installed one way traffic arrows throughout the building and have roped off pews and taped off seats in the sanctuary , to ensure social distancing.
* will not be having lay readers, singing by the congregation or handshakes and hugs at our welcoming time. Offering plates will be left at the front and the back of the church for your use, upon entering or leaving the service. Hymn books and Pew Bibles have been removed from the pews and no bulletins will be provided. We will rely only on the powerpoint screen. Communion will be available, served to you in your pew, by gloved and masked servers.Have determined that we should not be using the kitchen, so there will be no coffee hour. Washrooms have been reduced to one person at a time. There are procedures posted in each washroom we ask you to follow for safety reasons.
* Plan to still have live music from our wonderful musicians, safely and in line with the public health guidelines and Eleanor will provide us a live message. We also plan to record the service for live streaming and or youtube viewing later, should you wish to continue to participate in our worship service from home.
* Strongly encourage all individuals who can, to download the federal COVID app to your phone to help with contact tracing and awareness of exposure, as a good civic measure and for your own safety.

We hope you find these measures workable and that your safety is being protected, so that you can enjoy the company of your congregation and enjoy the worship message and music in person.