

## COVID UPDATE FROM SESSION – APRIL 2022

**Dear members and adherents,**

This spring, we have seen the continued relaxation of most pandemic restrictions, while at the same time seeing a sixth wave. Cases are up but are now mostly milder. Will the virus ever stop mutating? Session discussed (again!) the COVID situation with respect to RPC and we wanted everyone to be clear on our current position.

- we are no longer requiring proof of vaccination to attend worship or other events
- we encourage continued use of masks during worship and Munch & Mingle – singing and close face-to-face conversation remain higher-risk activities, and we are considering those in the congregation who may be more susceptible for reasons of health or age
- if you don't feel well, please stay at home and worship with us online

In an upcoming meeting we will consider whether to resume passing offering plates.

It is wonderful to see our attendance climbing on Sunday mornings. We're not up to pre-pandemic levels, but we are looking and feeling more like the active and welcoming congregation we are. One area that is not rebounding in the same way, however, is the number of volunteers.

A personal greeting at the door says to newcomers and to long-timers, "Welcome to the house of God and to our church family; we're glad to see you!" It acknowledges a common purpose and a kindred spirit among those who are gathering. Our 'Munch and Mingle' coffee time following worship is an opportunity to establish and build those church family relationships which are foundational to our shared faith and our individual wellbeing.

If you have not participated as a greeter or coffee time volunteer, consider both the benefit to our ministry and how it will make you feel. When someone asks if you can help, say yes. Greeting is easier now that we're not involved with pandemic protocols at the door. A smile and a word will do it. Munch and Mingle provisions are supplied, all you need to do is serve and clean up. A pair of hands will do it.

Going wide with the world certainly doesn't stop within the doors of RPC, but it should start here. Let's begin by serving one another so that we can learn to better serve the greater community around us!

Blessings to you.

***Graeme Stager,  
Clerk of Session***