



# Rowntree Memorial United Church

## Rev. Wendy Noble, B.A., M.Div.

### **Restart of In Person Church Services at Rowntree Memorial UC**

The time that the congregation of Rowntree Memorial United Church has been waiting for since March 2019 has finally arrived. Live church services will restart on **Sunday Oct. 10, 2021**. It is very fitting that our church services should restart on Thanksgiving Sunday. This event is something for which we are truly thankful. However, church services will not be as we remember pre pandemic. This letter besides notifying you of the restart of services at Rowntree is being sent to let you know the procedures and guidelines that have to be followed to make our return successful.

With the number of people allowed in the sanctuary being reduced from pre pandemic levels, anyone wishing to attend the service must pre-register either by email or by phone **each week** between Wed. and Fri.

- **Email-** Each Wednesday an email reminder will be sent with a link for pre-registration. Your registration email must be received by no later than 5:00pm on Friday.
- **Phone-** If you choose to register by phone, registration will be accepted by leaving a message at 519-432-8075, Wednesday through Friday. Again, your phone registration must be received by 5:00pm on Friday.
- As part of the registration process there is a Covid screening questionnaire that must be completed. (*See attached*)

The Restart committee has set a minimum attendance of 15 for *Oct. 10*. If 15 people do not pre-register, then we will revert to Zoom services. If the minimum number is not achieved those who have pre-registered will be notified of the change.

At this time, the United Church of Canada has indicated that we cannot ask for proof of vaccination. Therefore, Rowntree's position is that we strongly recommend that everyone who is able to be fully vaccinated does so. Vaccination protects not only ourselves but also all those who will be attending services with us.

**If you do not feel well, do not attend services at the church.** You must verify that you passed the COVID screening before entering the Church for Sunday service.

Physical distancing must be maintained and masks worn at all times. Groups from the same household can sit together without having to observe the 6 foot minimum distance between members of the household.

There will be no choir, congregational singing or responsive readings. Initially there will be instrumental music or pre-recorded singing only. The possibility of having soloists will be investigated once the services have resumed

The access and exit from the building will be through the Brampton St. entrance only. There will be a desk set up in the entrance where names will be checked off on arrival. Confirmation that there has been no change in health status



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since the Covid screen questions were answered during registration will be required.

Anyone arriving who has not pre-registered, will have to answer the Covid screening questions at the desk. They will have to wait to make sure we have enough spaces available before they can be seated. Our capacity limit is 60.

Coffee and conversation time will not be held. Please do not stop to talk with people who are not part of your household either inside the church or in the parking lot. Those wishing to chat or have a coffee with those you may not have seen for some time are being asked to go to a coffee shop or restaurant.

Screens have been purchased for the pulpit and the lectern to allow the minister and lay liturgist to speak without wearing a mask.

Everyone is looking forward to being seated again in our sanctuary and to seeing many faces we may have seen over Zoom but not in person or not at all for a very long time. If we follow the public health guidelines, in person services can continue safely for all.

Debbie Betchen

For the Restart Committee and the Official Board



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### From the Re-Start Committee-

### Re-commence live services October 10 @ 9:30 AM

On August 25<sup>th</sup> the Rowntree Board confirmed the plan to restart live services Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> as long as the Covid fourth wave is at safe levels. Preparations are now underway to re-open following the best guidance available to ensure services are as safe as possible.

Services will be much different than pre-Covid. Based on guidance from Antler river region, the health unit, and province, Services will be organized as follows:

- **Pre-registration and screening by phone or email with the Church office is Required** as attendance is limited by the need to ensure everyone can maintain social distancing rules.
- Screening questions will be similar to other indoor events and ask you to confirm that you have no Covid symptoms, have not been exposed to anyone with suspected Covid or been told to self-isolate, and do not have Covid test results pending or travelled outside of Canada. We also strongly encourage everyone who plans to attend a service be fully vaccinated. Brianne will email or mail details of the screening questions to all members and adherents prior to restart.
- Everyone must enter through the Brampton St door (lift will be available) and check-in to confirm they pre-registered and have been screened for Covid. If needed please use the washroom at the top of the stairs instead of going to the lower level.
- When entering the sanctuary you will be instructed to go to the furthest back marked pew for seating. e.g. fill the sanctuary starting at the back
- Everyone must sit in groups by household and at least six feet apart from non-household members.
- When leaving it will be the reverse with people in the front leaving first.
- Service will not include any congregational singing or responsive readings. Soloist and Organist will provide music
- No outdoor coffee/social time after the service on Church grounds. Please ensure you maintain safe social distancing rules as you exit the building and move through the parking lot on your way home.

This is a significant change from pre-Covid times and is necessary to reduce the risk of Covid exposure. We ask for your patience and understanding as follow the best health advice and continue to Worship together.

**Zoom services** will not be held for the first few weeks that live services are held. The intention is to focus on resolving any issues with the live service plan and then if there is enough interest to provide a zoom version of the live service once the technical setup is completed



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## Rowntree Memorial United Church COVID Screening

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?



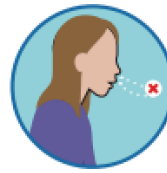
Fever or  
chills



Cough



Trouble  
breathing



Decrease or  
loss of taste  
or smell



Nausea,  
vomiting  
or diarrhea  
(age <18 only)



Very tired,  
sore muscles  
or joints\*  
(age 18+ only)

If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms, select "No," unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse.

YES

NO

2. Has a doctor, health care provider, public health unit, or Canadian Border Services Agency told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?

- This can be because of an outbreak, contact tracing, or travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days.

YES

NO

3. Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating?

- If you are [fully vaccinated](#)<sup>††</sup> or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and since been cleared, select "No."

YES

NO

If "YES" to any  
questions  
above:



Do Not Come to  
Church &



Follow advice of  
the ML Health Unit