



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

I'm sure we are all watching the declining COVID positivity and rapidly increasing vaccination rates in CT with anticipation and hope for a return to some sense of normalcy in the near future. Governor Lamont recently held a COVID news conference in which he suggested that he may relax various restrictions in mid-March if the positive trends continue.

As recently as Nov-Dec, our WUMC COVID Recovery Team (CRT) was meeting weekly to follow and react as necessary to the rapidly worsening situation as a result, in part, of family holiday gatherings. In 2021, the CRT is now meeting regularly with a focus on developing new protocols for safely re-introducing various elements of traditional church life that have been sorely missed (e.g., Pastor greeting line, Fellowship Hour, congregational singing).

Despite recent positive signs and developments, we must remain diligent in complying with NYAC restrictions and our approved protocols. It will take time to develop and obtain approval of new protocols that allow additional church life activities to be held within our facilities.

In the meantime, please remember that approval should be requested, using the attached request form, for any meeting or activity that involves more than 5 people interacting for more than a few minutes within the same room. And protocols defined therein must be followed, including the wearing of masks at all times, maintaining social distancing, and keeping an attendance list. The distribution of food is currently not allowed. Both the request form and attendance records should be submitted to Kathy Craig, who will coordinate with the CRT. Smaller gatherings do not require pre-approval, but must follow the same protocols defined in the attachment.

We all look forward to returning to a normal church life. Let us all hope and pray that it becomes possible soon! In the meantime, our worship services and small group studies remain vibrant, providing connection for those who choose to participate either in-person or online. We want to provide every opportunity we can to preserve and enhance our fellowship during this time when we are separated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mark Davis

Chair, COVID Recovery Team
Lay Leader