

REOPENING TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Reopening Task Force continues to monitor, on a weekly basis, the COVID-19 epidemiologic data in CT, with focus on the Farmington Valley (Avon, Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury). This review revealed that the number of COVID-19 cases and rates of COVID-19 infection had significantly increased in November and December in Hartford County, including the Farmington Valley.

The principal criteria that the Task Force is using to suspend in person services in the sanctuary are:

- When any of the four towns in the Farmington Valley are in the **red zone** (15 or greater positive cases/100,000 people/day)
- Trend of changes in positivity rates from week to week.

Using these criteria and in consideration of the safety of our congregation and staff, the Task Force recommended to Pastor Julie that we temporarily suspend in person services in the sanctuary for Sunday worship beginning on 11/29/2020.

The Reopening Task Force continues to meet via Zoom biweekly, with ongoing communication throughout each week via e-mail and cell phone. This approach permits ongoing monitoring of the COVID-19 trajectory, in order to recommend either to remain closed or reopen the sanctuary for in-person Sunday services.

We offer the reminder that the church office is closed to the public at this time, but parishioners are more than welcome to call the office and make an appointment to stop by.

The Task Force continues to enthusiastically support offering weekly Zoom worship as a continuing option throughout the pandemic. We are hopeful that we can return to in-person Sanctuary services very soon, as soon as the COVID-19 risk becomes less.

As always, feel free to contact the Pastors or members of the Task Force with any questions or concerns.