

## REGATHERING WILL SOON ARRIVE

If the course of Covid-19 and the progress of vaccinations continue as they presently are, the First Congregational Church of Wallingford will hold its first in-sanctuary service at 10am on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>!

May 9<sup>th</sup> was chosen so that as many members as possible can get vaccinated, to give adequate time for the Covid Task Force to complete their preparations, and for the sanctuary to be “deep-cleaned” as protocols presently require.

And speaking of protocols ... We have many of them that are required to make certain that everyone attending remains safe and healthy; thus it will not quite look like our “traditional” service. The Covid Task Force will be arranging to have the protocols sent out so everyone knows what is expected.

One of the changes that you will notice right away is that everyone attending will be required to add their name to a list that will be kept of each service. In the unlikely but still possible event that someone that attends acquires the virus, this list will assist the Wallingford Health Department in their contact tracing. The second change will be that volunteers will usher each person to their seat. Of course, masks will be required and the necessary social distance will be maintained.

Diaconate will be working on the on-line alternatives for those who are still uncomfortable attending, and they will also be weighing options for outdoor services on the Parade Ground as the weather permits. Those who attended the Palm Sunday and Easter services were universally pleased with these well-attended and creative services, and we hope to have more of them before regathering in the sanctuary.

We are full of cautious optimism and want to thank all who have worked so hard for so long to bring us to this point, most especially the Covid Task Force. One last word of caution is required: there has been media talk of a “fourth wave,” and, if that unfortunately comes about, this joyful Regathering will have to be postponed. But let’s all keep our hopes up that, after fourteen months, we are finally, finally seeing the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

That is all we have to report now, but Stay Tuned! Through Constant Contact, email and snail mail, we will keep you informed as this exciting day approaches.

Steve Knight and Lori Folk-Barron, Moderators  
Steve Perkowski, Board of Trustees  
Erica Haddad, Church Clerk

Reverend Kathy Cunliffe  
Debby Voelker, Board of Deacons