



Calvin Presbyterian Church

126 Angell Road
Cumberland, RI 02864

November 18, 2021

Dear Church Family,

Psalm 149 begins with the verse "Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!" (excerpt from ESV bible translation). We have been blessed during this pandemic to have Derek and other church family members sing during worship, but we have missed the joy of singing the LORD's praises as a congregation. The Session has been discerning how to respond to the pandemic regularly since March 2020. During the Session's November 2021 meeting they agreed it was time to begin slowly restarting congregational singing during worship!

Congregational singing will be allowed for masked congregation members starting on November 28, 2021. One congregational hymn is planned for that day as we slowly restart the gift of singing praises to our God!

This decision was made after much prayer and discussion. It was noted as a part of our review the following mitigating factors supporting the decision to begin congregational singing: 1) congregational density has been reduced by removing pews from the sanctuary and increasing the spacing between pews; 2) two air purifiers have added to the sanctuary; 3) the sanctuary is a large space with a high ceiling; 4) our community (RI) has the second highest vaccination rate in the country; 5) most of our church family is vaccinated with many having received the booster; and 6) the congregation will be required to wear a mask when we are singing.

The Session understands there will be some who are still concerned with congregational singing in the sanctuary. As a result, the last row of pews will be reserved as "no singing pews" for those with these concerns.

Please note that at the same meeting the Session agreed that we will close the windows and doors in the sanctuary when the weather is cold. It is felt the risks associated with opening the sanctuary to the outside cold winter weather outweighs the benefits of extra air circulation.

Should you have any comments, questions or concerns you can contact me or any Session member to discuss this topic further.

I look forward to making a joyful noise together with you in the near future!

Grace and Peace,

Peter H. Cameron
Clerk of Session
Calvin Presbyterian Church