



RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

August 13, 2020

Peace, friends.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned much about what it means to be church.

On Sunday, September 6th, 2020, St. Peter's will resume in-person worship on non-television broadcast Sundays. For the month of September, this means that in-person worship gatherings at 49 Queen Street North will be offered on Sunday September 6th at 10AM and Sunday September 20 at 10AM; on Sundays September 13 and 27, we will gather via the CTV national television broadcast at 10AM (Bell Fibe: 201/1201 Bell Satellite: 584, 1505; Rogers Cable: 12/109/518; Shaw Direct: 67/369 *Local listings across the province and country may vary)

Ultimately, it is the safety of staff, volunteers, members, guests, and those we serve that guides our decisions regarding building use and activities. The COVID-19 Operational Plan Team and Board remain unwavering in their posture to not look for ways to creatively get around or alter public health directives and guidelines and to stay up to date on all government and public health directives and adhere to them.

Our time at the church will look and feel much different as we become accustomed to new ways of gathering and the staff and leadership appreciate that some may find these guidelines to be challenging. While we look forward to gathering for in-person worship, it's unrealistic to expect things to be as they were before the pandemic.

"This is going to be different and strange...and it is a privilege to gather," said one. Good things to keep in mind as we prepare and continue to experience church, worship, and community in new ways.

Entering/Exiting the Building:

- Wear a mask at all times (in accordance with the Waterloo Region Bylaw)
 - Cloth masks will be available for those who need one
- Entry to the building will be through the narthex/lobby doors underneath the breezeway
 - For those with mobility issues, the elevator (off of the parking garage) will be available as well as the narthex door off of the alleyway beside the church building
- Please follow all directional markings once inside the building
- You are asked to self-screen before making your way to the church
- A greeter will ask you to self-screen when entering the church
- You will need to log in once at the church (for public health contact tracing purposes only)
- Hand sanitizer will be available at key locations
- Please do not gather in the narthex/lobby before or after worship as this will make it difficult for others to enter or exit the building
- Follow direction from our friendly guides



In the Building:

- Unfortunately, Sunday school programs are currently suspended
- There is no access to various parts of the building. These include, but are not limited to: Sunday School rooms, second floor washrooms, nursery, toddler room, lounge, kitchen, chapel, youth room, church offices, choir room, and fellowship hall. Please follow the signage.
- Coffee and goodies will not be served
- Designated main-floor washrooms will be open (with limited access) and are to be used only if necessary
- Always practice physical distancing while on St. Peter's property

Worship:

- Worship will be different and may feel strange
- Seating has been modified
 - Some pews have been roped off
 - Seating areas have been designated to maintain physical distancing
 - Volunteers will direct people to available and specific seats - we may not be able to sit in our regular spots
 - Please remain seated until leaving or heading to the restroom
- There will be no congregational singing
- Please, no shaking hands or hugging
- Offering plates will not be passed
- Children are to sit with their parents/caregivers
- Sit only with people within your bubble
- At this juncture, communion will be offered *virtually* during the live, television broadcasts
- Bibles and worship books have been removed from the sanctuary because they are difficult to sanitize

Not ready?

- If anyone doesn't feel ready to return to in-person worship yet – that's ok!
- Online/eMessenger worship materials will continue to be provided as well as supportive pastoral conversation
- Live, CTV national television broadcasts will continue (August 23, September 13, September 27 at 10AM (Bell Fibe: 201/1201 Bell Satellite: 584, 1505; Rogers Cable: 12/109/518; Shaw Direct: 67/369 *Local listings across the province and country may vary)

Updates will be offered via eMessenger and website; this is a fluid situation. This is a challenging time, and one that we can continue to meet with "dexterity, generosity, and deep faithfulness. [...] May God continue to bless us with abundant gifts of hope, forbearance and patience as we navigate the significant decisions and choices that will need to be made going forward" says our Bishop. We couldn't agree more.

Onward,
Pastor Mark

Sources for operational plan and materials include: Region of Waterloo: Public Health and Emergency Services (COVID-19 Guidance for Re-opening Places of Worship), The United Church of Canada (Safety Considerations for Reopening during the Pandemic), The Government of Alberta (COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship), The Ontario Ministry of Health (COVID-19 Guidance: Essential Workplaces), The Government of Ontario (A Framework for Reopening our Province), The Government of British Columbia (Restart Plan), The Government of Canada (Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces...), Government of New Brunswick (Guidance Document of General Public Health Measures During COVID-19 Recovery), The Synod of Alberta and the Territories (A Checklist for In-Person Worship in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories in an age of COVID-19), The Eastern Synod (Resumption of In-Person Worship checklist), Toronto Public Health, The United Methodist Church, Public Health Agency of Canada.



COVID-19

Do you have any of the following:



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Sore throat,
trouble swallowing



Runny nose or
red eyes



Loss of taste or
smell



Not feeling well,
tired or sore muscles



Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea



Have you been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?



Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?



If you answered YES to any of these questions, go home & self-isolate right away. Call Telehealth or your health care provider, to find out if you need a test.

regionofwaterloo.ca or covid-19.ontario.ca

source: Toronto Public Health

HOW TO SAFELY USE A NON-MEDICAL MASK OR FACE COVERING

DO'S



DO wear a non-medical mask or face covering to protect others.



DO ensure the mask is made of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric.



DO inspect the mask for tears or holes.



DO ensure the mask or face covering is clean and dry.



DO wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching the mask or face covering.



DO use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove the mask.



DO ensure your nose and mouth are fully covered.



DO replace and launder your mask whenever it becomes damp or dirty.



DO wash your mask with hot, soapy water and let it dry completely before wearing it again.



DO store reusable masks in a clean paper bag until you wear it again.



DO discard masks that cannot be washed in a plastic-lined garbage bin after use.

DON'TS



DON'T reuse masks that are moist, dirty or damaged.



DON'T wear a loose mask.



DON'T touch the mask while wearing it.



DON'T remove the mask to talk to someone.



DON'T hang the mask from your neck or ears.



DON'T share your mask.



DON'T leave your used mask within the reach of others.

DO YOUR PART.

Wear a non-medical mask or face covering to protect others when you can't maintain a 2-metre distance.

NON-MEDICAL MASKS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR:

- ➔ People who suffer from an illness or disabilities that make it difficult to put on or take off a mask
- ➔ Those who have difficulty breathing
- ➔ Children under the age of 2

DON'T JUDGE OTHERS FOR NOT WEARING A MASK.

Kindness is important as some people may not be able to wear a mask or face covering.

REMEMBER, wearing a non-medical mask or face covering alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must also wash your hands often, practise physical distancing and stay home if you are sick.

