

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Sydney Mines

Worship Attendance Guidelines

August 23, 2020

The Session has taken a cautious approach to re-opening for Sunday worship at St. Andrew's. It has agreed to a trial period of in-person worship at St. Andrew's for the month of September: September 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 11:00 am. The Session will re-visit the matter of in-person worship services at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Please know that **there is no pressure for anyone to return to "in person" worship**. The Special Edition Bulletin will continue to be produced and delivered each week through September. Remember, you or your family members or friends can always request to receive the Special Edition Bulletin by Email, home delivery or by Canada Post. In addition the scripture reading for the week and message are posted on the Church's website. If you are anxious and do not feel the time is right, or you have concerns because you feel your in-person attendance may put you or a family member at risk, the best choice for you may be to continue to use the Special Edition Bulletin in solidarity and fellowship with others through the week. You may participate "in person" when you feel ready and comfortable.

In re-opening, attention will be placed on creating a safe space for those who choose to attend. Attention will be given to following public health guidelines for in-person gatherings. This means that some things will be "different" as we re-open. For example, the service will be modified and be shorter than usual. There will be no Sunday School provided so children will remain in the sanctuary with their families with a quiet bag or equivalent provided at some point in the service. There will be music but no congregational singing. The offering plate will not be passed during the service but available in the sanctuary upon entering. The hymn

books and bibles have been removed from the pews. Not all pews will be available to be used.

Before you come:

Please do a quick self-screening:

People are advised to stay home if:

- feeling ill in any way or have respiratory issues;
- are elderly or vulnerable with underlying medical conditions;
- have travelled outside of the Atlantic Bubble in the last 14 days;
- have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19;
- have had close contact with a probably or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Protective Measures:

Self-Screening: Please follow the self-screening tool above.

Entry to Church Building: All people are asked to enter via the Ramp Door, which will be opened by 10:15 am. Once inside, you will be asked for your name and phone number and reference made to the self-screening questions listed above. This is necessary for contact-tracing purposes and records will be destroyed after two weeks.

Physical Contact: Wherever possible people are asked to physically distance 2 meters apart with those not of their family or cohort bubbles while both outside and inside the church building. You are encouraged to greet one another with a friendly wave or smile. Please avoid using physical greetings such as hugs, high-fives or knuckle-bumps. If chatting with other people, please move aside from traffic areas, particularly around entrance and exit ways to the church building, its many doorways inside, and the washrooms, so others may pass by safely.

Sanitizing/Cleaning: Our custodians will clean regularly, paying special attention to high-touch surfaces and common areas including pews, door handles, light switches, faucets, toilet handles prior to the services.

Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and exit the building.

Washrooms: The two washrooms on the main level will be available for emergency use. They will be cleaned before Sunday 10:00 am and following each service.

Seating: In order to maintain a minimum of 2 meters between members of different households or cohort bubbles every other pew will be blocked off. The immediate end of some pews may also be marked off due to our narrow aisles. People are encouraged to sit from the front of the sanctuary to the back. Because of the restricted seating arrangement, people may not be able to sit in a particular pew of choice or the same pew each week. If there are special seating arrangements that are needed, please be in touch with Rev. Marion prior to the Sunday morning concerned.

Exiting: At the end of the service you will be invited to exit the church building, beginning at the rear of the sanctuary. Hopefully, there will be a door monitor to hold the door open as you exit. Exiting will be from all four doors unless otherwise announced.

Offering: The offering plates will not be passed person to person during the service. An offering plate will be available upon entering the sanctuary in which to place your offering envelope.

Masks: In accordance with public health guidelines all people are asked to wear a non-medical mask while in the building including during the worship service. The exception is for those who are participating in the service, at the time of their

participation; children under 2 years of age and those who have medical issues for which it would be problematic to wear a mask.

Printed Materials: Each week Individuals are free to bring their own bibles to a worship service for meditative reading in the sanctuary. Some copies of the Special Edition Bulletin will be available for pick-up. There will be no additional bulletin for the “in person” worship.

These continue to be unprecedented and uncertain days as we all seek to manage daily life in a COVID-19 world. These guidelines seek to provide a safe, welcoming place where health and well-being are taken seriously while providing the freedom and opportunity to come together as a church family to worship God. These guidelines may be modified or up-dated as public health regulations are revised.

Whether you gather for “in person” worship at St. Andrew’s or continue to worship from home in the coming weeks, the focus remains the same: to praise and glorify our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and to be upheld in faith and fellowship together.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Rev. Marion (902-241-2310).

Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay MacKay

On behalf of the Session of St. Andrew’s