

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING

The Pastor and Board of Deacons, in conjunction with the Board of Management, are continuing to seek ways to provide opportunities for fellowship within our Church congregation, while stringently following the public health measures set out by the government. As long as our area remains in the Yellow Phase, efforts will proceed for providing indoor worship services that can accommodate up to 50 people. The first step in this effort will take place this Sunday, June 14, with a 'soft opening' of the church. In this stage, those people in our congregation who are not able to live stream the service through Facebook will be invited to come together in the church building for Worship. They will be joined by a minimum number of church members, mainly deacons and Board of Management members, who are needed to facilitate such a service. This will allow for a testing of the procedures and protocols that have been put in place, and may highlight areas that still need further work. These 'soft openings' will continue for at least a couple of weeks, to refine the plan and make adjustments as needed. When the Pastor and Deacons are comfortable with our ability to do so, the church building will be opened up to no more than 50 participants for the Worship service. The Congregation will be notified both by a personal phone call and through the HBConnection newsletter when we are ready to take this next step. The Pastor and Deacons recognize that even with physical health measures and safety protocols in place, there are a number of people in our congregation who will not be comfortable with physically returning to Church while we are still in the Yellow Phase. Therefore, live streaming of the service through Facebook and the posting of the service on YouTube will continue throughout this process and even after the Church is opened to the general Congregation.

In deciding where your comfort level lies, we thought it would be helpful for you to have **answers** to some commonly asked **questions** regarding what Church will look like in this phase. These answers are based on the information we presently have, and will be updated if anything changes.

Q1. What do I need to bring with me?

A1. To assist with the required sanitization measures and safety protocols, there will be no Bibles, Hymn Books, cards, or writing utensils in the pews. Therefore, please bring your own Bible and anything you need to take notes. Also, if you would like a hot or cold drink while you are at the church, you will need to bring it with you, preferably in a reusable container. Anything you bring in with you must be taken with you when you leave. Nothing is to be left in the pews.

Q2. Will I park where I normally do?

A2. When you drive into the parking lot, a parking attendant will show you where to park. Cars will be spaced at least 6 feet apart. The parking attendant will also let you know when you and your passengers can exit the car to enter the church. Everyone will enter the church through the front doors. This will ensure that 'family bubbles' are maintaining a 6 feet distance.

If you have a passenger who needs to be dropped off at the front door, you may do so. That passenger can then enter the church, respecting the 6 feet distancing from anyone else entering the church. They will check in with the person at the door, and then wait to the side until the rest of their family has parked the car and joins them. Then the whole family will proceed together to be seated in the sanctuary.

Q3. Do I need to wear a mask?

A3. From the time you arrive at the church, measures will be in place to ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet between family bubbles and individuals. Therefore, masks will not be required; but attendees are certainly welcome to wear one for part or all of the process if they are more comfortable doing so.

Q4. What door do I use?

A4. Only the front doors will be unlocked. Everyone must enter through the front doors. The required signage will be posted on these doors concerning the public health measures for COVID-19. There will be someone at that door to greet you, ask a few questions, sign you in (so we will know who was present each week, if needed for contact tracking), and direct you.

Q5. Will hand sanitizer be available?

A5. Yes, there will be a hand sanitizing station in the entry way. Every person entering the church must sanitize their hands, both when they enter and when they leave.

Q6. Will washrooms be available?

A6. The washrooms in the hallway next to the Nursery will be available. To maintain the 6 feet distancing rule, only 1 individual or 1 family bubble can use the washroom at a time. Sheets are posted in the washrooms describing the correct hand washing method that must be used following the use of the facilities. Children must be accompanied by an adult when using the washrooms to ensure that correct hand washing is done.

Q7. What is the acceptable standard greeting?

A7. There is to be no physical touching - remember the 6 feet apart rule - so no shaking hands, hugging, elbow bumps, or pats on the back. However, a nod and smile and a friendly "Hi" are always appropriate.

Q8. What do I do once I am in the door and have my hands sanitized?

A8. You will immediately proceed to the Sanctuary. This is not the time to stop and chat, as the entry way will need to be cleared for the next family 'bubble' or individual to enter the church. There will be arrows on the floor leading you to the door you will use to enter the sanctuary. At that door you will be met by one of the Deacons who will direct you to where you will sit. A family 'bubble' will be seated together, but each bubble or individual attendee will be separated by at least 6 feet. Some pews will be closed off completely to ensure that 6 feet distancing is maintained on all sides.

Q9. Will there be congregational singing?

A9. No. There will probably be some recorded music played over the sound system, and there may be a special musical number provided from the platform. However, the Worship Team will not be leading any congregational singing at this time.

Q10. What about the children?

A10. There will be no Junior Church or Nursery at this time. It will be a family-style worship service, with everyone together in the Sanctuary. Children will need to sit with their family 'bubble', and can only leave the sanctuary in the company of an adult. Parents are encouraged to bring materials with them to help keep their children engaged during this time. Remember, that everything brought in with you must be taken out with you when you leave.



Q11. Will the offering be collected during the service?

A11. Offering plates will not be passed during the service. You can continue to use e-transfers for your offering, or you can bring your envelope with you on Sunday morning. There will be a locked box as you come inside, where you can deposit it.

Q12. Will I be able to access every area in the church?

A12. The areas of the church that will be open to attendees on Sunday morning will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each service. To limit the amount of cleaning that must be done, many areas of the church will be closed off; such as, the Nursery, Kitchen, Water Fountain, Gym, Lounge, Junior Church Room, and the entire upstairs. Also, only the front doors will be opened for entering the church.

Q13. How will physical distancing be maintained at the end of the service?

A13. At the end of the service, pews will be dismissed one at a time by the Deacon who seated you. Once dismissed, people are to exit the church immediately by the designated door, stopping only long enough to get their hand sanitizer at the station provided. This is necessary in order to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet in the entrance area. People who need to be picked up at the door can wait in their pew until everyone else has been dismissed. Then they can, while maintaining physical distancing, move into the entry way to await their ride.

Q14. When can I visit with my Church family?

A14. Once you have moved outside into the parking area, you may greet each other and chat, as long as you are maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from each other.

If you have other questions, please pass them along to the person who has been calling you regularly, and we will do our best to provide an answer.

