



Grace United Church

MINISTER –Reverend Kathryn Vance, DM
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August 31, 2021

To the Congregation of Grace United Church,

Welcome back to Church! It has been a long time coming and we hope to make it as safe as possible for everyone.

A Committee has been struck to determine guidelines and plans for the reopening of Grace United Church. These plans are based on current knowledge with respect to the pandemic and may change.

Grace United will resume in-person worship services on September 12, 2021. For those who are not able to or who wish to worship at a distance, livestreaming will be available. In addition, bulletins, announcements, and newsletters will continue to be mailed by hard copy or email and announcements will be on the screen. If you plan to attend in-person, and no longer need the mailouts, please let Jackie know at the office (519-583-0342 or graceuntiedportdover@gmail.com)

Before attending church, you are asked to self screen: **if you have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, not feeling well or have been in close contact with someone with confirmed Covid19 in the past 14 days, or if you have been out of the province in the last 14 days, please do not attend.**

At present, the guidelines are as follows:

- **Entry** will be by the Sanctuary doors only; if the ramp is required ask a greeter to open the Community Hall door for you
- You are asked to use the **hand sanitizer** provided upon entry
- **Masks are required. Please bring a mask with you. Masks will be available if you forget yours.**
- An usher/greeter will have a **list to check off** attendance for contact tracing if needed later. Only one member per family needs to be noted in the attendance.
- A **one-way counter clockwise route** will be used for entry and exit within the sanctuary to allow distancing between members; going down the first aisle and across the front and coming up the far aisle.
- Some pews will be roped off to ensure appropriate distancing for your safety. We ask that as people arrive that you follow the assistance of ushers and fill the left-side of the church from the back forward, and then the right side starting at the front. This is intended to enable a flow of traffic and spacing.

- The hymn books, bibles and items in the pews as you know have been removed and will not be used at this time. The screen will provide the information for all.
- At this time, there will be no singing. An appropriately distanced performer(s) may be the exception.
- **Washroom use** will be restricted to the Grace Room washroom which can be accessed by the sanctuary entry door; any other washroom must be by usher accompaniment using the lift
- **Offering plates** will be available upon arrival at the back of the church. Please leave any offers in the plates before being seated.
- Counters will be asked to continue to wear gloves and bring their own pens.
- **There will be no Sunday school at this time. Children** will remain with parents.
- **Exiting the church will be assisted by ushers just as when you entered. The exit** will be through the doors nearest the manse (St George St Exit). The pews nearest the back will go first, then the left centre bank, the right centre bank and lastly the pews nearest Chapman Street. To assist with exiting and to ensure everyone's safety, the minister will not be greeting congregation members upon leaving.

As we resume our 'new normal' with worship services and other activities at Grace United, the congregation benefits from a strong commitment to volunteerism. Whether you have volunteered for certain roles in the past or not, please let Jackie our Office Administrator know if you are willing and able to assist with being a greeter, usher, reader or in other capacities as we reopen. To contact the office, you can call 519-583-0342 or email graceuntiedportdover@gmail.com.

God bless us all.