

**A PLAN TO SAFELY RE-GATHER AT**  
**MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**STARTING ON THANKSGIVING SUNDAY OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

**Hebrews 10:25**

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.(NIV)*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING**  
**ON RE-GATHERING**

**We are RE-GATHERING for worship on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:00a.m. as we have been approved to do so by the County of Brant. This re-opening was chosen in order to allow Communion to be celebrated online on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 which is Worldwide Communion Sunday. Doing communion during the public worship service is not recommended by our local health unit at this time. Starting our regathering as of Sunday October 11, 2020 will allow for us to celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday.**

***Please be assured that we are regathering following the guidelines of the Health Unit, the Bylaw Officer for the County of Brant, the Province of Ontario, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada to successfully open. We want to ensure the safety of our people and choose to make this a top priority. It is particularly important that you understand that we respect your decision to come when you feel the time is right for your family. We also recognize the desire of many of our people to reconnect with their church family and we want to be able to provide them with a clean, safe environment to do so. Proper cleaning and sterilization of all areas will be done before each service and after each service. Below is a full list of***

**what to expect with re-gathering for our worship services once we are approved to do so.**

**Our Brant County leadership is asking that face masks be worn in all indoor public places. We are happy to oblige. We ask that you bring your own mask however if you forget, we will have some available at the front doors for you to use.**

### **Reopening Services Safely**

#### **A. Occupancy Restrictions**

- 1) The use of our facility will only be used for *SUNDAY WORSHIP at this time.***
- 2) The Government guidelines *only allow 50 people or 30 % capacity to gather together inside for worship.***
- 3) To ensure we keep within the numbers we are asking that you register with us by e-mailing [deanandnadine@bell.net](mailto:deanandnadine@bell.net) or call 519-758-5516. Please register at least 1 day prior so that we keep to our proper numbers.**
- 4) If we have more than 50, or more than 30% of capacity, we will consider doing a second service or make accommodations as required. Notification of when we are at capacity will be made to the congregation by e-mail and it will be posted on our website and other social media. For those who do not have computers you will be contacted by phone.**

### **Social Distancing**

- 1) It is imperative to note that no one should feel obligated to attend this service, or any other service that is to be held during this pandemic. *If you do not feel comfortable or safe attending a service, please stay home and worship from there. The on-line services will continue to be posted later Sunday afternoon.* We realize it is not the same as gathering together as a church family, but God is with us no matter where we worship.**
- 2) If you are ill or experiencing any symptoms of COVID19 please stay home and worship from there.**

- 3) There will be signs posted informing everyone attending to complete a self-check. You will be asked at the front door if you have completed a self check and if you have any symptoms or not feeling well. Other signs reminding of hand washing, keeping social distancing and directional signage will be posted throughout the church.**
- 4) The worship service will not be the same and certain programming will not be operating (NO nursery, NO children's church), however we are doing are best to make it meaningful worship in honouring our Lord and God.**
- 5) If children attend, they must stay seated with their parents during the service.**
- 6) People attending worship services MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING (unless they have / meet the guidelines for an exception)**
- 7) There will be line markings on the sidewalks and by the entrance of the front door...spaced 2 metres apart to help people distance themselves before entering.**
- 8) Entry will ONLY BE AT THE FRONT DOOR. Please do not enter through St. Andrew's and Heritage Hall.**
- 9) At the front entrance door, an usher will be counting attendance and recording contact information (this is required to track the number of people in the building, and to contact them in case of an outbreak of COVID-19.**
- 10) There will be hand sanitizer available at the entrance door and at the top of the stairs. You will be asked to use the sanitizer before entering and upon leaving. Kleenex boxes will also be in each pew.**
- 11) Pews will be marked for seating. Every other pew will be used in order to space people properly for social distancing. *Please understand you may not get to sit in your "regular" pew.***

- 12) We ask that you cooperate with our ushers who have been trained to seat you systematically (not random throughout the Sanctuary). If you are expecting guests or would like to sit in proximity with others, please arrange to meet outside of the building and enter together so you will be seated near each other.**
- 13) Families will be asked to sit together.**
- 14) Pillows and cushions have been removed from pews. If you need to have a cushion to sit on, please bring one with you from home and please take it back home with you when you leave.**
- 15) Once seated, please do your best to remain there until you are dismissed. Please feel free to smile and a wave from your pew as we know how much we have all missed seeing one another.**
- 16) Pew Bibles and Hymn books have been removed from each pew. Please bring your own Bible if you wish.**
- 17) There will be no coffee hours after the service at this time.**

## **WORSHIP**

- 1) Once the worship service begins, the front part of the Sanctuary will be restricted to the worship leaders (the minister and pianist) and special music only and no longer considered a public space. The worship leader will remove their mask only to lead worship ensuring proper 2 metres / 6 feet distance is maintained. The front pew will not be allowed to be used which will create an actual physical distance of (10) ten feet between the minister and the congregation.**
- 2) SINGING.... Worshiping God comes from the heart. Congregation members are asked to keep their face masks on at all times unless a medical condition prevents them from doing so. We ask that you consider singing quietly or even humming along with the tune, while**

**thinking deeply about the lyrics.) Amy, our music director is located in the section that is in the restricted area to the public. Amy will lead the singing using a microphone. The piano is situated at the front of the sanctuary and is not facing the congregation. The microphone that she uses will be disinfected after each use.**

**3) Special music / soloists/ duets will be seated in the designated restricted area throughout the service. There will be no more than 2 people standing beside one another and will stand at a distance of 2 metres (6 feet apart). When performing soloists may remove their mask as they are in the designated area not used by the public. Microphones will not be shared and will be disinfected after each use. The distance between performers and the congregation will be 7 – 10 feet. No wind instruments will be used at services.**

**4) Offering plates will be placed at the top of the stairs in which you can place your offering. The offering will no longer be taken up during the worship service.**

**5) Bathrooms will be open for use. They will be thoroughly cleaned before the service and after the service. Lysol wipes will be available in both bathrooms. We ask that you disinfect/wipe down taps and handles after use.**

**6) The Lord's Supper will ONLY be celebrated on-line for now. In house communion services will resume at a later time once it is safe to do so.**

### **AFTER THE SERVICE....**

#### **Flow of Traffic**

**1) In order to effectively social distance, we ask that you follow directions given by our ushers. With everyone's cooperation and by**

**moving people in the same direction, we will eliminate bottle necks and people unnecessarily coming into close proximity with each other. Church will be *dismissed by section and row to avoid congestion* (from back to front as directed).**

**2) We ask that you exit the building immediately upon dismissal as directed. Once again, our ushers will be happy to assist you!**

**3) After the congregation has left all commonly touched surfaces, door handles, pews, stairway handrails, keyboards, microphones and washrooms will be disinfected.**

### **Final Thoughts**

**In all things, please use common sense and self assess prior to entering the building. If you or anybody in your social circle are ill, stay home. If you are at church, please be respectful of the safeguards put in place, and maintain the recommended distance between others.**

This is new to all of us...

**We kindly ask that you please exercise GRACE with everyone while worshipping. The services will most likely have some “hiccups” and things may arise that we did not anticipate. BUT we are thankful that we can worship together and need to remember God’s goodness and grace.**

*We have truly missed everyone, and we look forward to worshipping together again as a church family.*

**As always, we do ask that you remember to PRAY for us as we work diligently to re-gather.**

### **1 Timothy 1:7**

*“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind.”*