



A PHASED PLAN FOR WORSHIP

PURPOSE:

The Great Commandment states, “Love the Lord your God’... ‘Love your neighbour as yourself” (Matt. 22:37-39). During this pandemic, one way we express love for ourselves is in doing what we can to protect ourselves from getting infected. In the same way, one way we express love for our neighbour is in doing what we can to protect them from getting infected. This policy aims to help us love one another and our community by providing clear guidelines and procedures for our protection and safety when gathering for worship.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Mission: *We are first and foremost a church, the people of God, seeking to love & serve Jesus and help others know him. We will move forward thinking theologically and praying passionately, listening for God’s guidance.*

Humility: *We are in new territory, doing our best to figure it out as we go along. We do not expect to “get it right” all the time, and we will be free to adapt and change along the way.*

Inclusion: *Each person in our church family is valued and invited to contribute, no matter their ability or desire to participate in what we are able to offer. We will continue to seek for ways to include everyone in everything we do.*

Wisdom: *Our government and health agencies provide helpful guidance and guidelines. We will follow the best science and information available to us in order to keep everyone safe.*

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PHASE 1 - WORSHIP AT HOME, TOGETHER

WHAT: Gathering in homes for worship, using internet (YouTube, Zoom) to join together.

WHEN: If strict lockdown is enforced with all gatherings limited to immediate family or groups of 5 or less.

PROVIDE WEEKLY WORSHIP VIDEOS

- Worship videos available Sunday morning for on-demand viewing, online and on Channel 4 in Madoc.
- Kids' Moment videos follow a curriculum, with discussion resources and prayer.
- Physical distancing - individual or family participation, or people in social bubbles.

USE ZOOM TO CONNECT FOR FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

- Weekly Zoom prayer meeting.

CREATE A CARE TEAM TO CHECK-IN WITH THE CONGREGATION

- A small team to connect regularly with people by phone, in addition to Pastor Brandon's check-ins.
- Inform Pastor Brandon of pastoral care needs that arise.

PHASE 2 - HOUSEHOLDS JOIN FOR WORSHIP

WHAT: Two-three households (5-10 people) join together, using internet.

WHEN: If religious gatherings are restricted and indoor social gatherings are open to groups of at least 10.

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SELF-ORGANIZE INTO GROUPS OF MAX. 10 PEOPLE.

- Meet weekly to watch the online worship video, discuss & pray.
- Hosted in homes or at the church as the group decides. Church space will be available on a schedule managed by the church office, and must be reserved in advance.
- People unable to find a group may contact Brandon to be connected with a group.
- People unable or uncomfortable with meeting in a group may continue to access the online worship videos as in Phase 1.
 - Videos will also be available on Channel 4 in Madoc on Saturday/Sundays.
 - Audio CD's or video DVD's can be made available for those who need them.
- Each group will select a person or couple to serve as Host(s).
- Each group will decide whether or how to include children. Kids' Moment videos with teaching, questions & prayer will continue to be provided weekly.

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure group is limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- Record attendance (name & contact info) for each meeting, and report attendance to the church office weekly.
 - This facilitates contact tracing by keeping accurate record of attendees.
 - This also facilitates discipleship and pastoral care by allowing us to know who is connected in a group.
- Ensure Guests maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres.
- Ensure hand sanitizer or soap/water is available for people upon entering and leaving.
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided by the church.
- Ensure frequently touched surfaces are disinfected before and after the meeting (if at your home), or immediately after the meeting (if at the church).
 - Disinfectant spray will be provided by the church.
 - Surfaces most likely to become contaminated include, but are not limited to, doorknobs, railings, buttons, light switches, toilet seats and handles, faucet handles, electronic devices, tabletops and chairs.
 - Washrooms are cleaned and sanitized before and after the meeting (if at your home), or immediately after the meeting (if at the church).
 - Toys that cannot be sanitized are removed before the meeting.

- Do not share cutlery, plates or cups. If the group wants to eat together in your home, encourage foods that minimize or avoid cross-contamination. Food other than Communion elements is not allowed in the church at this time.
- Inform Pastor Brandon and group Guests if someone in your group develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Understand you are attending the group at your own risk, and are entering an environment where efforts have been made to disinfect and provide space for physical distancing.
- Self-screen for symptoms before attending and do not attend if exhibiting symptoms within the past 24 hours. If you need guidance, visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>.
- Respect and follow all guidelines, including physical distancing of at least 2 metres and wearing a mask as required by provincial or municipal guidelines.
- Bring supplies you wish to have to limit contact (cups, wipes, masks, etc.).
- Inform your group Host(s) if you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 within two weeks of attending the group.

If the Hosts and Guests do not meet the guidelines provided, please do not proceed with gathering.

PHASE 3 - MODIFIED WORSHIP SERVICE

WHAT: A modified worship gathering following safety restrictions.

WHEN: If religious gatherings are allowed with restrictions in place.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS:

- Each household must RSVP before attending, either online or through the church office. Once the 60 available spots are taken the gathering will be closed for RSVP until the next week. This will allow us to plan adequate seating for everyone.
- Greeters will welcome people at each entrance with hand sanitizer and ushers at the entrance to the auditorium will direct people to appropriate seating. Please remain seated and refrain from moving about the room or wandering into other areas of the church building.
- Plan to arrive no more than 15 minutes before the event to give greeters and ushers time to setup.
- Each gathering will include music (no singing), prayer, Scripture readings, a sermon & occasionally communion, and be limited to one hour.
 - All speaking, readings and singing will take place from the pulpit.
 - Communion will be served in individual portions, following all necessary safety guidelines.
- The nursery will be available as a place for a parent to take a child during the gathering. There will be no toys to simplify sanitation; parents may provide their own toys.
- Until further notice there will be no children's programming downstairs during the gathering. Activity packets will be provided for children to use, and we will attempt to engage all ages in the worship.
- There will be a box to collect offerings. We will continue to encourage digital giving.
- Hymnals and paper bulletins will not be provided. All necessary content will be presented on the screen.
- There will be no social or coffee time after church. Individuals will be expected to exit the building immediately after the gathering.
- The worship gathering will be live-streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube and cable Channel 4 in Madoc. People unable or uncomfortable with gathering may join the meeting through the live-stream, view the recording on YouTube or Channel 4, or request an audio CD or video DVD recording. The recording will show the pulpit and screen, but not the audience.

ATTENDEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Understand you are attending the gathering at your own risk, and are entering an environment where efforts have been made to disinfect and provide space for physical distancing.
- Self-screen for symptoms before attending and do not attend if exhibiting symptoms within the past 24 hours. If you need guidance, visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>. No one will be forced, shamed or judged into attending if they are uncomfortable.

- RSVP before attending, and since seating is limited please honour your RSVP by attending.
- Respect and follow all guidelines, including physical distancing of at least 2 metres and wearing a mask as required by provincial or municipal guidelines.
- Remain seated while in the sanctuary, and please use the washroom at home before attending; we will only have one washroom open to simplify cleaning.
- Volunteer to help with greeting, music, readings, cleaning, etc. so that the workload is spread out.
- Exit in an orderly and safe manner immediately after the gathering to facilitate cleaning.
- Inform Pastor Brandon or the church office if you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 within two weeks of attending.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES:

- We will record attendance including names and contact information. This is for contact tracing and must be done for each event.
- Our capacity numbers have been established based on the maximum seating capacity of the sanctuary while maintaining appropriate physical distance and following provincial guidelines. The sanctuary seating capacity is 180 which would allow for a maximum of 60 in attendance at 30% capacity. As needed, we will develop an attendance cap for other rooms (ie. classrooms, fellowship hall, nursery) and may make them more restrictive than the legal limit based on the size of the room.
- Physical distancing of at least 2 meters must be maintained between persons not in the same household or social circle. Physical touch is to be avoided between persons not in the same household or social circle.
- Following provincial or municipal guidelines, individuals are required to wear masks at all times while in the church building. Children 2 and under are not required to wear a mask. If an individual arrives without a mask, they will be gently reminded to wear one, and offered a mask if they do not have one.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering and exiting the church building.
- Coat racks will be unavailable for use. Individuals will be required to keep their coats with them.
- Music will be either on video or performed live. Speakers, readers or singers must be at least 4 metres from another person or behind a protective barrier.
 - No group singing is permitted at this time.
 - Masks may be removed while speaking or singing from the designated area.
 - Microphones will be disinfected after each user.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized immediately after the meeting.
 - Surfaces most likely to become contaminated include, but are not limited to, doorknobs, railings, buttons, light switches, toilet seats & handles, faucet handles, electronic devices, tabletops & chairs.
 - Only one washroom will be available to simplify cleaning, and will be cleaned and sanitized immediately after the gathering.

PHASE 4 - GATHERING AS ONE

WHAT: Worship gatherings in the church auditorium with no restrictions.

WHEN: If restrictions on group size, physical distancing, singing, mask wearing, etc. are removed.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP WITH EVERYONE WELCOME

- Singing, greeting one another through hugs & handshakes, and eating together are all important and valued parts of our worship. We now may participate in these freely.
- Coffee time after service may be served as a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.
- Children and youth ministries may be offered freely in whatever way is needed.
- Sunday school and/or small groups are able to gather freely in whatever way they need.

RECORDING OUR WORSHIP FOR PEOPLE AT HOME

- We will continue to produce a video recording of our worship service each week so those at home are able to take part with us.
- This allows us to maintain our newfound relationship with Hastings Cablevision in Madoc, potentially ministering to people in the community who may not have a church home by continuing to broadcast our worship service on Channel 4.