

Parkdale United Church: Information for Worshippers

Please read carefully before attending worship.

Worship at Parkdale United Church will happen in accordance with all provincial and municipal guidelines and best practices. We will be re-opening in a number of stages with the eventual goal of returning to some semblance of normalcy as the situation allows. At each stage, we will do everything possible to ensure people's safety as we honour and glorify God.

During Stage 3, the following requirements and guidelines will be followed.

Location: Worship will take place in the sanctuary. Worshippers will enter by the Dunn Ave entrance.

Time: Doors open at 10:00AM. Worship begins at 11:00AM. 6-foot markers will be placed on the sidewalk if a line develops at the door.

Screening: The doors will be supervised at all times during worship. Every person entering the church building must be screened. Those who are unable to pass the screening process will not be able to enter the building.

Masks: Masks must be worn in the building at all times, **covering the nose and mouth**. The only exception being children under the age of 4. This is in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines and best practices as the best way to limit the spread of Covid-19 during gatherings. **Please bring your own mask**. If you do not have one, disposable masks will be available at the door. Everyone is requested to

take all used masks home after worship. A donation box will be available for anyone who wishes to use it.

Note that those leading worship are required to wear masks except while leading worship because they will be at least 10 feet from the front rows.

Seating: Seats will be assigned. When entering the sanctuary, you will be directed by an usher to move directly to your assigned seat and not linger in the aisles. Ministry guidelines limit the seating to 30% of normal capacity. Chairs are pre-arranged to maintain the required 6' distancing. These are set up from singles to groups of 4 for families. Once seated in a chair, please do not move to another unless it is in the same group of chairs.

Children: Children must remain with the people who brought them. No nursery or children's programmes will be available. Children's activity sheets will be available upon entering the church.

Sanitizers: Hand sanitizer will be available and required upon entering. There are also sanitizer stations in the sanctuary.

Bathrooms: Bathroom facilities will be open.

People using facilities must clean up after themselves per health and safety. Cleaning materials and instructions will be posted in each bathroom.

Singing: Music will still be part of our worship but it will be presented differently. There will be no choir only the pianist and lead soloist.

There will be no congregational singing.

Communion: Communion will not take place during re-opening. Rev. Doug however, is very willing to schedule an appointment if you would like to receive communion either individually or as a family.

Offering: The offering plates will not be passed. Offering plates will be available near the **exit** doors for anyone who wishes to use them.

Leaving: At the close of worship, everyone is asked to leave the sanctuary immediately through the side door (maintaining social distance) and out the apartment tower doors in an orderly fashion from front to back. Again, please do not linger in the aisles or in the building. We cannot safely have coffee fellowship in the sanctuary after worship. According to provincial guidelines, groups of 10 can gather outside if social distancing is maintained both within groups and between groups.

After worship: Chairs will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes. Door handles, surfaces, washroom facilities will be disinfected.

Everyone must make their own decision about whether or not they are ready to attend. Those who are in high risk groups may want to consider delaying their return until a later stage.

Online worship will continue as part of the ministry of PUC. Some people do not feel safe returning to the PUC worship space so online worship shall be offered. Online participants shall be considered part of the PUC congregation.

This will be a new experience of worship for all of us. No doubt, we will discover ways in which to improve along the way and will have to adjust our processes and practices. We ask for your patience as we work all of this out together. Also, while some of these measures may feel rather restrictive, please remember that this is only the early stage of our re-opening process and will change over time as restrictions are relaxed.

Finally, all of this requires a lot of volunteers. There are three major teams: 1. Welcome/screening and ushering team. 2 Cleaning/sanitizing of sanctuary team. 3. Disinfecting of washroom team.

If you are able to help out on any of these teams, please contact the office.