

## **HYBRID SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH (KITCHENER)**

With the gradual lessening of COVID restrictions, we have begun to provide an opportunity for some folks to gather for worship in the sanctuary at 10 am on Sunday mornings. We began this process on July 12 and anticipate using the summer months to practice meeting under these 'new' conditions, while demand is still well under our capacity. This has targeted primarily those who have been unable to connect to the internet in the previous months, with space for a few others who have chosen not to join us online. Altogether we have opened about 30 spaces for individuals and households to physically distance within the sanctuary. To this point we have had an average of 10 people join us on Sunday mornings, in addition to about 10 volunteers tasked with ensuring safety.

Those in the sanctuary have joined our usual Zoom worship, seeing FMC faces on the screens, and voices broadcast over the speaker system. A camera has captured all of those in the sanctuary as one part of the Zoom collective, allowing connections with those who have spent these months apart from their church family. When small groups ("breakout rooms") are formed in our zoom worship those in the sanctuary have formed their own breakout room, taking the opportunity for sharing and prayer among themselves, with a pastor leading. Re-opening the sanctuary has also given opportunity to lead worship and/or congregational prayer from the sanctuary, as well as re-introducing 'live' music, as musicians have joined us again to offer music for those in the sanctuary and on the zoom call.

We anticipate that this hybrid arrangement will remain in place into the fall, for the foreseeable future and at least until Advent, with a gradual shift in weight from the population participating on zoom toward the population attending in the sanctuary, as the situation allows. We understand and want to be respectful of people's various comfort levels. While we hope that circumstances will allow the sanctuary group to grow gradually through the fall, we remain committed to making worship available online, whether in zoom format, as currently, or via live streaming, once we are mostly back to in-person worship, such that those who feel less comfortable, for whatever reason, can continue to participate in our worship.

We're aware that this model represents a significant change, both for those who choose to return to the sanctuary and for those who choose to remain at home. It will feel strange, regardless, and to a certain extent means that we choose, first, to bear with each other. We're also aware that the best laid plans must necessarily remain dependent on circumstances beyond our control. Nonetheless, and this is important--we also trust that God continues to be present, and to call us forward to be a people of healing and hope in a time of significant pain and fear.

## **FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH COVID-19 BUILDING SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

Those interested in joining the group that is worshipping in the sanctuary are asked to **RSVP to Nancy** (519-570-2289; [nancy@firstmennonitekitchener.ca](mailto:nancy@firstmennonitekitchener.ca)) or **Rene** (519-603-7456) so that we are properly prepared for the numbers.

### **PLEASE DO NOT COME IF:**

- You are feeling unwell and/or experiencing a cough, fever or sore throat.
- In the last 14 days you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for, or is suspected to have COVID-19
- In the last 14 days you have travelled outside of the province or country or come in contact with someone who has travelled outside the province or country.

### **TO KEEP EVERYONE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE, WE ASK YOU TO PLEASE:**

- Use the North Foyer Main Entrance to enter and exit the building.
- Maintain a distance of two meters or six feet from other people as much as possible.
- Wear a face mask at all times (masks will be provided if needed.)
- Sanitize your hands as you arrive and depart from the building.
- Follow the directional arrows when entering and leaving the sanctuary.
- Avoid handshakes or hugs. Greet each other with a nod and/or a bow with hands together.
- Sit in the assigned seating areas.
- Refrain from singing and loud speaking.
- Follow signage related to washroom use, including using hand sanitizer before entering.
- Directly exit the sanctuary as soon as the service ends; feel free to visit outside the building, while wearing masks and maintaining a 2 metre distance, for as long as you like
- Offering may be placed in the offering box at the end of the service as you exit.

There will be people to guide & remind throughout the time we are together, as we want you to feel at home even in the midst of this strangeness. To be socially responsible, a record of your attendance will be maintained confidentially for several weeks, in case of the need for COVID contact tracing.

Cooperating with all of these measures demonstrates our love and care for one another in the best ways we know at this time.

**May God be glorified in our gathering together.**

## USO DEL SANTUARIO LOS DOMINGOS POR LA MAÑANA

**Con la disminución de las restricciones de COVID, estamos dando la oportunidad a algunas personas de reunirse para adorar en el santuario los domingos a las 10:00 am a partir del 12 de julio.** Esto está dirigido principalmente a aquellas personas que no pueden conectarse a los servicios a través de la internet. En total, tenemos alrededor de 30 espacios en el templo para que las personas y los hogares puedan distanciarse físicamente.

Las personas en el templo se reunirán a nuestra adoración de Zoom habitual, viendo caras de los hermanos/as de la PIM en las pantallas en el santuario y escuchando las voces transmitidas por el sistema de altavoces. Una cámara en el santuario nos permitirá formar parte del colectivo Zoom. Cuando se formen pequeños grupos en Zoom (llamados "salas de reunión"), nosotros en el santuario seremos nuestra propia sala de reunión, aprovechando de la oportunidad para compartir y orar entre nosotros.

**Si desea unirse al grupo del santuario, por favor confirme su asistencia a Nancy (519-570-2289; [nancy@firstmennonitekitchener.ca](mailto:nancy@firstmennonitekitchener.ca)) o René (519-603-7456) para que estemos preparados adecuadamente.** Algunos que quieran venir pueden necesitar un aventón, háganos saber si está dispuesto a colaborar (con máscaras y ventanas abiertas en el automóvil).

### Por Favor No Venga Si:

- ❖ Se siente mal, tiene tos, fiebre y/o dolor de garganta
- ❖ En los últimos 14 días ha estado en contacto con alguien que ha resultado positivo al test de COVID-19 o sospecha que tiene COVID-19.
- ❖ En los últimos 14 días ha viajado fuera de Ontario o Canada; o ha estado en contacto con alguien que ha viajado fuera de Ontario o Canada.

### Para Mantener A Todos Lo Más Seguros Posible, Le Pedimos Que Por Favor:

- ✚ Use solamente la entrada principal (North Foyer) para entrar y salir del edificio
- ✚ Manténgase a una distancia de dos metros o seis pies de otras personas
- ✚ Use máscara facial todo el tiempo (se proporcionarán máscaras si es necesario)
- ✚ Desinfecte sus manos al llegar y salir del edificio
- ✚ Siga las flechas direccionales al entrar y salir del santuario.
- ✚ Evite saludarse dándose la mano o con abrazos. Salude con un movimiento de la cabeza o una reverencia con las manos juntas
- ✚ Siéntese solamente en las áreas asignadas
- ✚ Evite cantar o hablar en voz alta
- ✚ Siga la señalización relacionada con el uso del baño, incluido el uso de desinfectante para manos antes de ingresar.
- ✚ Salga del santuario inmediatamente que el servicio termine; tome su tiempo para socializar con los hermanos afuera del edificio, con máscaras puestas y recordando de mantener, por lo menos, dos metros de distancia todo el tiempo.
- ✚ La ofrenda puede ser depositada en la "caja de la ofrenda" al final del servicio cuando este saliendo del edificio.

Habrán personas que lo guiarán a través de nuestro tiempo juntos, ya que queremos que se sienta como en casa aun en medio de esta pandemia. A fin de ser 'socialmente responsable', un registro confidencial de su asistencia se mantendrá durante varias semanas, en caso de que sea necesario realizar un seguimiento de contactos debido al COVID-19. La cooperación con todas estas medidas es la mejor forma que conocemos de mostrar nuestro amor y cuidado por todos los hermanos/hermanas en la comunidad.

**Que Dios sea glorificado en nuestra reunión.**

