

First United Church Re-opening

August 21, 2020

We look forward to seeing **you** back at church (or online). We understand that you may have reservations about returning and are wondering what precautions are being taken. Below is an overview of our approach. These are the basic guidelines which have been taken in consideration of best practices shared by the Federal and Provincial Governments, Southwestern Public Health and the United Church of Canada. We also need to recognize that the church serves a population which is older and is more vulnerable to severe complications if COVID-19 was contracted by anyone. To that end, it is your decision as to whether you return **or** continue to enjoy our services which will continue to be streamed online. We look forward to seeing you either in-person or virtually.

Guidelines for Attendance at First United (to encourage proper hygiene and everyone's safety)

1. If you (staff, volunteers or those worshipping) are feeling sick or unwell or have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, we ask that you remain at home and join our service online using the link we have been using. Additionally, if you become ill during the service you are asked to return home and self-isolate. If you develop symptoms and test positive for COVID after a service you have attended we ask you contact us in addition to Southwestern Public Health.
2. We'd ask that each group RSVP prior to each service so we can plan for seating. We have approximately 28 main floor spots for bubble groups.
3. Southwestern Public Health and the City of St. Thomas require you to wear a mask when inside the church building. When serving you, staff will wear a mask. Similarly, we ask you to wear a mask as well. A limited number of disposable masks will be made available at the entrance, but we encourage you to bring your own.
4. Hand sanitizer is provided at several points in the building including the rear entrance (accessible entrance by the lift).
5. We will endeavour to have washrooms cleaned between uses, and disinfecting wipes will be available for you to wipe down surfaces if you choose to do so.
6. We'd ask that everyone enter via the rear accessible door, and at the conclusion of the service to exit via that same door while maintaining 6 foot/2 metre separation.
7. Seating for approximately 150 people (30% of our occupancy of 500) is available and will allow social distancing. Ushers will guide you as to where to sit initially until we get used to this new normal. Basically, people will be allowed to sit in every other pew and at opposite ends (to allow 2 metre/6 foot separation). Where you can sit is marked with GREEN painters tape.
8. Attendance will be taken. (This will allow us to contact you should we have someone test positive who attends church on any given Sunday where you are also in attendance.)
9. Fans will not be used for cooling purposes as they promote the spread of airborne matter.
10. Communion will not be offered at this time.
11. Services will be kept to under one hour in length to minimize exposure to each other. There will be an option to stay for five minutes after the service, in your seat to have a social time. You should not approach other congregants or the minister after church.
12. No food will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own refreshment if you so choose. Bottled water will be available for pick up just outside the sanctuary should you wish one.
13. No Regular childcare and children's programming will take place without further direction from Southwestern Public Health.
14. No indoor singing, including choir or solo nor use of wind instruments.
15. No sharing and distribution of materials and objects such as books, communion objects, microphones, etc.
16. Passing of collection/offering plates will not take place. A plate will be placed at the main door.

For Staff

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

- Educate staff on the proper use of cleaning agents and disinfectants, including required disinfectant contact times (amount of time that the product will need to remain wet on a surface to achieve disinfection). Understand safety precautions and requirement for use of mask and gloves.
 - All staff should take WHMIS training. Mark has explored several options.
- Ensure adequate ventilation when using products (e.g. open windows, doors, or use fans).
- Open windows to allow some air movement, ceiling fans should be put on low.
- Clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces (e.g. toilets, sinks, door handles, light switches, remote controls, and microphones) twice a day or more, and when visibly dirty.
- Ensure washrooms are always stocked with liquid soap and paper towels. Hand sanitizer and masks at the back door and a garbage pail outside (for masks upon exit).
- Antibacterial soap is not required to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Disinfectant kills germs on surfaces. Remove surface dirt first in order for the disinfectant to work.
- Most regular household cleaning products are effective at eliminating the virus.
- Look for cleaning and disinfectant products with an 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN) to confirm it is approved for use in Canada. Check the expiry dates of products and always follow manufacturer's instructions. Keep products away from children.
- Cleaning/disinfection wipes should only be used for surfaces, and according to the manufacturer's instructions. Alternatively, prepared daily fresh bleach solution may be used for disinfection.
- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water immediately after cleaning the setting.

Note: Disinfectant wipes may have a combined cleaning and disinfectant in one solution, but depending on how dirty the surface is it may need to be pre-cleaned as disinfectants may become ineffective when dirt is present. Check instructions on the product's label.