



Regathering Protocols

August 2020

Produced by:



A Church Whose Mission is to:

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, CHANGE THE WORLD

PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES AT VILLAGE GREEN

These guidelines are for the safety and health for you and your neighbours. Please be mindful of others comfort level and respect distancing. It is a municipal by-law that masks are to be worn for church services.

We thank our volunteers for their willingness to help you physically attend church again. We are all trying to do our best to adapt to these changes we have all had to adjust to over the past few months. Please be patient and kind.

Before You Come

Due to the limitations of numbers allowed by the government into our building and the demands of physical distancing we are asking everyone who plans to attend a service to contact the office prior to coming. You can email your intent to attend to office@villagegreenchurch.com

This will greatly help us in planning the services appropriately and making sure we are fully prepared for your arrival.

If you have been traveling outside of Canada – or within Canada and have any concerns - in the prior 14 days **or** are not feeling well, stay home.

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Our live Stream will always be available so if you are feeling unwell in any way, please stay home and enjoy the service in safety. You can find it at www.villagegreenchurch.com

Entrance

We ask that you enter the church through the door by the church offices. The door to the basement will be locked and not available for entrance or exit. When entering the church, please be mindful of physical distancing and stand on one of the lines if there are people ahead of you.

You will be asked some screening questions before you enter. As a reminder, if you have been traveling outside of Canada – or within Canada and have any concerns - in the prior 14 days **or** are not feeling well, stay home. The greeters don't want to have to ask you to go home.

A greeter will greet you from a distance. They will ask that you hand sanitize at the door. A new dispenser has been installed outside of the auditorium doors by the church offices. Masks are now mandatory. If you arrive without one, we have masks available when you arrive.

You will enter the auditorium from the hallway. If you have an Offering envelope, please place in black mailbox on the wall between the church offices. It would be ideal for you to do that prior to the service.

To ensure physical distancing between families occurs the ushers will be seating people using the 6 feet of space guideline. There will be at least four chairs between separate families and will be diagonally 6 feet or more from the families in front or behind individual groups of people.

Once in the auditorium, we ask that you remain seated unless you need to go to the washroom. Please choose a path that will ensure a 6-foot distance between yourself and others. Once the service is over, you will be directed when and where to exit.

During this time there will be no physical bulletins, Life Group material, and no physical taking of an offering, giving out of Communion, coffee, or any other high contact elements

Singing is essentially not allowed (and likely difficult anyway with a mask). We are suggesting you clap, meditate on the words or hum to yourself.

There will not be a bulletin or LIFE Group material available. The bulletin is sent out on Saturday afternoons in the VG newsletter along with the LIFE Group material. LIFE Group material can be found on YouVersion app by searching for Village Green Community Church in the Events section. If you do not receive the email on Saturdays and would like to, call the church office - 519-473-5505.

Exit

After the service you will be directed when and where to exit to leave the church and go to the parking lot. Please remember to maintain physical distancing as you leave.

Doors

Magnetic doorstops have been installed on the washroom doors and will remain open to limit contact. Auditorium doors will remain open throughout the service. Please keep the doors open.

Overflow/Hospitality

At the present time, the Overflow room is not available during the morning service. Other areas of the building will be deemed 'off-limits' as well, such as the basement, kitchens, and prayer room. Coffee and other hospitality elements will not be available at this time.

Parking

We are asking that all attendees use the upper parking lot (the one on the west side of the building). The basement will be closed and all doors in the lower parking lot will be locked.

Kid's Connection

Kid's Connection will not be meeting physically for the foreseeable future. Until we are confident that we can meet in a safe manner, we are encouraging families to continue engaging the online resources and live stream from the church.

We are continuing to look at ways to expand the online presence of this ministry and provide tools for parents to keep their children engaged in their spiritual development.

Cleaning Protocols

The church will be employing a custodian to be in attendance during a service to help ensure generally cleanliness of the washrooms and the facility.

Ushers, greeters, and other volunteers will be sanitizing high contact areas on a regular basis. There are hand sanitizing stations at key areas of the building, and we are encouraging everyone to use them when entering and exiting the building.

Life Groups/Youth

We are continuing to use Microsoft Teams as our online gathering tool for these groups. We will monitor the situation and make decisions on the format of these meetings as government allows.

General Considerations

Please be considerate of the staff and volunteers who will be serving during the regathering. They all have additional responsibilities and are trying to manage many things at once. Please respect the physical distancing guidelines as well as the protocols presented in this document in order to keep our community safe. If you cannot respect any of these protocols as presented here, we are asking that you do not come and simply enjoy the live stream in the safety of your own home.

As a church, we are responsible to:

1. God - we are clearly mandated to care for others, be obedient to those over us, and be a refuge of God's love to others.
2. Our church community – we are responsible for those whom this pandemic threatens directly. The church should be the safest place for the most vulnerable among us.
3. Our surrounding community – we are responsible for demonstrating the love of Jesus to others.
4. Our government – we are responsible to abide by the stipulations they have put forward. Our freedom ends where the needs of public health begin, because this is not a religious freedom issue but a battle against a pandemic.
5. Our insurance company – we are responsible to abide by the government stipulations to protect ourselves from potential liabilities.

DON'T GO TO CHURCH,

BE THE CHURCH.

office@villagegreenchurch.com

519.473.5505

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