

Parkminster's Return to In-Person Worship Safety Plan

Revised: June 21, 2022



We care about each other and so your Parkminster United Church faith community leaders have created an in-person Worship Safety Plan that takes seriously our responsibility for preventing the risk of COVID-19 infection as we gather in community together for in-person worship on Sunday mornings.

You also have responsibility to keep yourself, your family and others healthy and safe by following all protocols outlined in this safety plan. We continue to encourage you to practice physical distancing from people outside your family social circle/household, when practical. Two meters is the recommended space between individuals.

As we participate in-person worship it's important to understand that the experience of Sunday morning worship is somewhat different from what we've previously known. We acknowledge that we're not yet at the point to return to all things pre-COVID. This helps us appreciate the new experience of Sunday morning for what it is and also keep us from slipping into routine behaviours that could put you or someone else at risk. With that said, we are happy to be able to gather look forward to being together in community.

Should any member of the Congregation become infected with COVID-19 after attending a church function, please advise the Church Office immediately.

This Safety Plan will be updated as COVID-19 circumstances evolve.

Here is a summary list of what is new for now:

- ✓ Pausing the requirement for mask wearing for entry and during worship (use is optional based on personal preference)
- ✓ Outdoor social time after service and inside in inclement weather
- ✓ Passing the microphone in the pews for Joys & Concerns
- ✓ Using the fans
- ✓ Opening the water fountains
- ✓ Self-screening is encouraged. If you do not feel well, please stay at home and attend worship virtually.

Here is a summary list of what hasn't changed yet:

- ✓ Self-screening is encouraged
- ✓ No gathering in large groups to chat in the church
- ✓ No paper bulletins – this will stay as is until determined otherwise by committees
- ✓ No passed offering plate – this will stay as is until determined otherwise by committees
- ✓ Our ministry team continues to lead worship for both in-sanctuary and at-home participants
- ✓ Soloists remain behind screens
- ✓ Communion remains self-administered in the pews
- ✓ No live choral singing
- ✓ In-person Sunday School activities remain outdoors
- ✓ You may be filmed as our service will be broadcast on Zoom, Facebook and videotaped for our website
- ✓ Should any member of the Congregation become infected with COVID-19 after attending a church function, please advise the Church Office immediately

Here is a summary list of what is the same:

- ✓ Your ministry team
- ✓ The sanctuary with its beautiful stained-glass window
- ✓ The opportunity to worship in community

If You Feel Unwell

If you feel unwell, please stay at home and rest. If you are able, we invite you to attend worship virtually via Zoom, Facebook or telephone.

General Information

Parkminster is a caring community and in the spirit of caring for each other, we encourage you to physically distance from each other and wear masks if you feel more comfortable doing so.

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue when necessary.

Parkminster has a cleaning plan in place for reducing contamination of the building.

Worship services will continue to be offered over the internet via ZOOM and Facebook as well as via phone.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home, self-isolate, and seek the medical attention you need.

Should any member of the Congregation become infected with COVID-19 after attending a church function, please advise the Church Office immediately.



Upon Arrival and Before Worship

Please use the designated entrance doors.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance. Please sanitize as you enter the building.

Wearing masks is optional. A small supply of disposable masks will be available at the entrance (if you've forgotten).

Physically distancing from people outside your family social circle/household is strongly encouraged when practical. Two meters is the recommended space between individuals.

Name tags can be picked up at the board.

Children will sit with their family social circle/household. The family worship space is open with physical distancing required.

During Worship

Congregational singing and group responses will be allowed.

Hymn books and pew Bibles will be found in the pews.

There will be no bulletins or handouts to distribute. Information will be projected on the screen.

People will be invited to voice their joys and concerns using a microphone that will be brought to your pew. Alternatively, send an email or voicemail of any joys and concerns to either Minister prior to the service.

Lay readers will be on the chancel as well as live or taped via Zoom. They will be invited to return to the pews when finished their readings.

The ministers will be on the chancel using their headset microphones. They will be unmasked while on the chancel and while using their headsets.

Soloists will be on the chancel, and while not singing, will be seated physically distanced from the ministers. When singing they will move to the front of the chancel and the ministers will move to the back of the chancel. They will sing from behind a moveable plexiglass screen.

There will be no live choral singing at this time.

An offering plate will be placed at the back of the sanctuary. You are asked to put your donation in the basket as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

Windows will be open during good weather for circulation of fresh air.

Youth programs will be held in the church.

Occasional in-person outdoor children's programming will occur (watch What's Up for information).



After Worship

Social time will be offered outside and will move inside in inclement weather.

Virtual social time for our friends on Zoom and Facebook remains in place following worship.

Name tags are to be returned to the board.

A minister will greet you on your way out.

Please use the designated exit doors.

Appropriate cleaning will be performed.