

July 22, 2020

Hello CPC:

On Sunday, July 12th, I was pleased to announce we will begin having our Sunday morning service again in the church on Sunday August 2nd. Your leadership team, staff and some wonderful people have been preparing for this event and we all look forward to welcoming you back. As we are still having to be very careful with any personal and social interactions due to COVID-19, our services will look quite different to what we have been used to. To help you with this transition let me give you some details in preparation for our gatherings.

Our BC government requires we limit gatherings to 50 and maintain a 2 metre distance between people not in family groups. We have already re-arranged the main auditorium to accommodate the 50-maximum limit. It looks very different and may be a bit surprising when you first see it. Certainly, there is a lot more space on the main floor! In addition to the new seating arrangement you will also see many more signs posted in the building to help guide you through this new 'normal'.

Health and government officials are increasingly advising or mandating wearing a mask as an effective measure for safety especially when in enclosed areas. As a consideration for your safety and those around you, wearing a mask will be required when in our building. We ask you bring your own mask and be sure to have one for your children who are six years old and up. While this sounds like a lot, it is important to remember we are now getting back together after a number of months, so let's celebrate that.

The worship team will be limited to no more than three people on the platform and only one person singing. We will not be singing as a congregation as singing is considered much higher risk for spreading COVID-19. I encourage you to watch the video on our [Facebook page](#) from Dr. Esther Stubbs who explains the reasons for not allowing singing at this time.

We are being very careful, as recently the number of new COVID-19 cases in BC is rising. Our provincial health Doctor, Bonnie Henry is warning that we are at a crossroads and it is up to us to keep the COVID-19 curve flattened. This is a concern that we all need to take seriously. We will continue to watch the situation in our province and heed the advice of our provincial medical leaders.

We are taking a step by step approach to reopening, starting initially with a 10:00 am service only, one hour in length. At this time there will be no services for children, but they are welcome to attend the service with their families. In the meantime, we are including a 5 minute children's segment in our service. Our desire is to accommodate everyone who wants to attend, so we are developing plans for a future second service and for Children's and Youth ministries in the Fall.

Online Services will continue so you can continue enjoying CPC services if you are unable to attend. Initially the online services will be pre-recorded, but we will switch to live-streaming after we have worked through transition tasks and are satisfied that it will work well.

Here's how things will work:

We ask that you register to attend the service via our [website](#). Registration for each service will be open from the Monday morning to the Saturday evening at 6pm before the Sunday service. For those unable to register online, please phone the office between Monday morning and Thursday before 2pm. You will be asked to give the number of people in your group attending and your contact information. This is for contact tracing should that be needed in the case of COVID-19 transmission linked to a CPC service. Also, should your plans change, you are asked to cancel by emailing office@cpclife.com or calling the office to free up space for others.

Of critical importance, if you are sick, have any COVID-19 symptoms, have been in contact with anyone with symptoms or are required to self-isolate, **you must not attend a CPC service.**

Upon arrival, a member of the Greeter Team will welcome you, check you in and direct you to a grouping of chairs that matches the size of your group or to the balcony. In addition to wearing your mask inside we ask you make use of the hand sanitizer available in the foyer.

On Sunday mornings only the main auditorium, the foyer and the restrooms off the foyer will be open. The office reception area will be open for debit machine use only. The balcony will be open as needed with the front foyer stairs available to access that area. In consideration of everyone's safety, the remainder of the building will be closed. When people enter any area, we must treat it as potentially infected and must then clean and sanitize it.

The Nursery will be accessible for a maximum of 2 babies/toddlers, accompanied by only one parent per baby/toddler, maintaining social distancing. Upon leaving, we ask that you sanitize the high touch surfaces with the materials provided to protect others.

I am aware all of this must sound like a lot to take in and adjust to. Let me encourage you that we have been doing 'church' for four months apart and while we have been able to stay connected through social media it's not the same as seeing each other. In coming together again, though not as we are used to, there is great value in physically seeing each other, encouraging each other with staying safe, and celebrating this small step forward. Although it will feel different, we can worship together and celebrate God's goodness. We've made it this far and we can keep going.

I'm also happy to let you know we have a surprise for you. I hear it may have slipped out a little, but when you come in Sunday August 2nd, see if you can find what we have been up to. I think you'll be pleased!

So...masks on, hands sanitized, social distancing respected and let's go! It will be wonderful to see you all.

God bless,

Pastor Anne

PS: Check my video on our [Facebook page](#).