



## **Worship Gatherings: Phase Two**

On Sunday, September 13, we will be entering Phase Two of our gradual return to holding Sunday worship services that look and feel at least a little more like they used to. We are still operating under a public health order that prohibits public gatherings of more than 50 people at a time, but on September 13 the 'look' of our Sunday services is going to get an upgrade.

The first thing to know is that we are going to continue to schedule three worship service times every Sunday: at 9:00 a.m., at 11:00 a.m., and at 6:00 p.m. We don't know yet whether or not it will become necessary for us to schedule even more weekend services later in the Fall.

The biggest change is that we are going to be moving into the Chapel (formerly the Youth Centre). This wonderful new, completely-renovated meeting space is going to be much better suited to holding these new, smaller, 50-person worship gatherings. The lighting will be better, the sound quality will be better, and the seating will be more comfortable.

The second big change is that we are going to be able to return again to holding live worship services. At each service the worship songs will be led by a small, 3- or 4-person worship team, and the sermons will be delivered live at both our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. (At our 6:00 p.m. services, there will be a live worship team leading music, but the sermon will be pre-recorded.)

The third big change will be that our Children's Ministry team will once again be offering a Kids program at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. More on that elsewhere in the next article.

## **Sunday Morning Kids Program**

Starting Sunday, September 13, the Children's Ministry Team will once again be offering a kids program in conjunction with our Sunday morning worship gatherings. It will, of course, look somewhat different as we invent new ways of doing ministry that allow us to minimize the risks of Covid-19 transmission for everyone, and as we make sure to comply with the public health order that prohibits public gatherings involving more than 50 people at a time.

Here's how it will work. Families with kids who are going to attend the kids program will have to pre-register, along with everybody else, and there will of course be a limit on how many spaces are available for each service. When they arrive on Sunday morning, they will park in the parking lot at the 'back' of the building, next to the elementary school, and this parking lot will be reserved just for them. They will enter the building through the back entrance door (at the south end of the breezeway) and then drop off their kids with the sign-in desk for the kids program.

Then the parents and other adult members of the family will be directed to the second floor of the building, where there is a direct entrance to the Chapel balcony, where they will be seated. After the service is over, the parents and other family members will exit the Chapel the same way that they came in, pick up their kids, and exit the building via the back parking lot.

Because the parents and other adult family members who will be seated in the balcony will not have any direct contact with the worshippers who are seated on the main floor of the Chapel, this approach will permit us to add an additional 20 or so adults to the number of worshippers who will be able to gather together to worship for each of our morning services.

# Ministries Update

September is ordinarily the time of year when a lot of different mid-week ministries start up again at Sevenoaks, but this is of course no ordinary September. As the new ministry year begins we are still in a season during which we are not in a position to hold any sort of public gatherings involving more than 50 people at a time. Plus, we are actively committed to making sure that the activities and events that we DO hold are set up to provide an environment where

- ◇ physical distancing is possible,
- ◇ measures are in place to lower the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus from one person to another, and
- ◇ those who decide to attend these events can feel safe & secure coming to the church building.

Some of our regular ministries are going to remain suspended, at least for this fall. The ministries that **will not be resuming this fall** include

- ◇ Good Friends
- ◇ ESL
- ◇ The Word for ESL

The following ministries, however, have started up or will start up over the next few weeks. (Although in each case with significant modifications to how they will operate.)

**Youth Programs** will resume running on a weekly basis starting the third week of September. High School Youth will be meeting on Tuesday nights; Middle School Youth will be meeting on Wednesday nights.

**ARM (Addiction Recovery Ministry)** will resume holding its weekly recovery support meetings (with men and women meeting separately, in different parts of the building) on September 14.

**CHatS (Connecting Hearts at Sevenoaks)**, our mid-week teaching and fellowship ministry, is starting up again this week, but in a modified version that has some of the participants attending on Wednesday mornings and some of the participants attending on Wednesday afternoons.

**ALPHA** will be running on Thursday evenings throughout the fall, starting again on September 24.

**Forty Over Sixty (40/60)** is a new mid-week ministry for seniors that Pastor Jack has gotten up and running over the past month or so. Our third Forty Over Sixty gathering will take place on Thursday, September 17, and then on every second Thursday morning after that.

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## 40 Over 60

While this fellowship gathering has just started, it is already moving!... But only from Wednesdays to Thursdays. Beginning Thursday, September 17, & continuing every other Thursday, *40 Over 60* will meet to sing hymns, be enriched by testimonies & receive a meditation. On Thursday, September 17, Pastor Dariush Eyvari, from the C&MA Iranian church in Coquitlam, will be speaking.

Register by calling the church office. The first 44 are in!

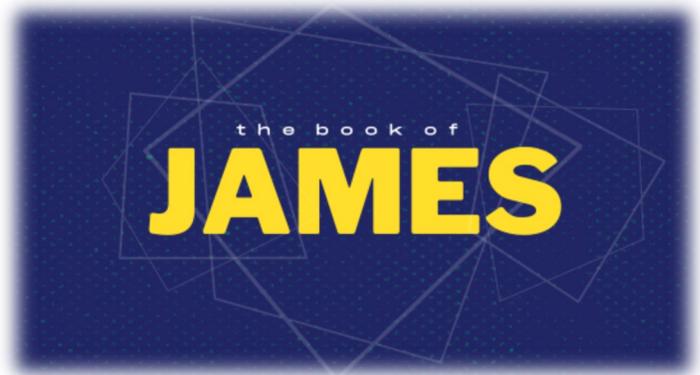
## James: Walking the Talk

On Sunday, September 13, as we 'kick off' a new year in our life together as a church by relocating to the newly-renovated Chapel and resuming 'live' worship services, we will also be kicking off our new fall sermon series on the Book of James. This twelve-part series will carry us right through until the first weeks of December. James is a relatively short letter, at only five chapters in length, but it is packed with practical advice on what it looks like to not only profess our faith in Jesus Christ, but to 'walk the talk' as we live out that faith in our everyday lives. (Indeed, James is famous for making it clear that we ought probably to *talk* less ... and listen more!)

We encourage you to 'follow along' closely as we journey through this book together. Given what a short book of the Bible it is, we encourage you to make time over the next couple of weeks to sit down and read it all at once. It was written as a letter. Read it as if it was a letter which has been sent personally to YOU. (Because it is!)

Then make sure that you make time each week – in your personal hours of prayer and Bible reading – to read ahead the particular passage that we will be talking about on the following Sunday. Read it slowly, read it carefully, and as you read be willing to go beyond asking – merely – “*What is God saying in this passage?*” Ask, more openly, “*What is God saying in this passage to US. What is God saying in this passage to ME?*”

If you belong to a Gospel Community (small group, Bible study), consider spending some time – each time you meet this fall – unpacking together what you have heard God saying to you – Sunday by Sunday – as we work our way through this practical manual for Christian discipleship. Small group leaders, you will love studying James. Conversation flows, because no one ever says, “*I can't see how this has any application to my life!*”



Sunday	Scripture
September 13	James 1:1-11
September 20	James 1:12-18
September 27	James 1:19-27
October 4	James 2:1-13
October 11	James 2:14-26
October 18	Missions Sunday
October 25	James 3:1-12
November 1	James 3:13-18
November 8	James 4:1-10
November 15	James 4:11-17
November 22	James 5:1-6
November 29	James 5:7-12
December 6	James 5:13-20

### Evening Prayer

*“As long as we have unsolved problems, unfulfilled desires, and a mustard seed of faith, we have all we need for a vibrant prayer life.”*  
John Ortberg

We would like to provide opportunity for our Evening Prayer to begin again on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Community Room. Please contact Pastor Jamie ([jfox@sevenoaks.org](mailto:jfox@sevenoaks.org)) if you would like to commit to being involved with this prayer group. Once we have at least 10 individuals expressing interest, we will pick a start date!

## Two Ways to Serve with Our Community Partners

Do you have a sense that the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic probably mean that there are a lot of people out there who could use some help? And is the Holy Spirit – alive in your life – filling your heart with a desire to lend a helping hand if you can? And are you a bit frustrated because you don't know where to go to offer your help? Well, the Community Care Committee would like to recommend a couple of practical ways that you can serve others - in love - in Christ's name.

One of the organizations that serves a great need in the community is the **Archway Community Services Food Bank**. Most people know that people who find themselves in need can go to the food bank to get help, but what about those seniors who are shut in and cannot get out to travel to the food bank? Well, *Archway* has a program under which volunteers deliver food to seniors in their homes. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly increased the demand for these home deliveries, so the Food Bank have asked us (along with several of their other church partners) to commit to providing additional volunteer drivers to take these food basket deliveries around the city on certain days of the month. If you own a car, and you are free during the day on weekdays, and if you are willing to be part of a roster of volunteers from Sevenoaks who will help out with deliveries a day or two each month, please call Pastor Brian at the church office (604.853.0757), or email him at [brobertson@sevenoaks.org](mailto:brobertson@sevenoaks.org)

Back in the spring we let you know about a wonderful program that the **United Way** has set up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and which **Bethany Verwoerd** is one of the coordinators for. Quite simply, people who need a little bit of help with something get in touch with the *United Way* and Bethany and her colleague work to match up that person with a volunteer who can help them out. The requests are sometimes as small as weeding a garden for a senior living independently with mobility challenges, delivering groceries to a single parent, or calling a lonely neighbour. Each of these requests may seem small, but to each of these people it can make a huge impact knowing that someone in their community sees them and cares enough for them to help. Bethany is looking for more volunteers to add to her list of people who she can call on. If being a volunteer with *United Way* intrigues you, contact Bethany at [bethanyv@uwlm.ca](mailto:bethanyv@uwlm.ca) for more information, or sign up directly on *United Way's* volunteer platform by going to [www.ivolunteer.ca](http://www.ivolunteer.ca)



**United Way**  
**Lower Mainland**

**ALPHA** is a 10-week video series intending to lead people into a relationship of faith with God. It's a very interesting & engaging way to share about the love of God & make new friends.

The next session starts Thursday, September 24, at 630pm in the Gym. A safe seating arrangement (4 people per square table) will be utilized. Each evening there will be a short introduction followed by viewing the video & then discussing it.

While you may bring your own food & drink, be sure to consider bringing a friend!

Register either by emailing Pastor Jack at [JCampbell@sevenoaks.org](mailto:JCampbell@sevenoaks.org) or through the Sevenoaks Alliance Church Facebook page.



## Keeping Our Kitchen Closed

One measure that we are taking to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission at our in-person worship gatherings and other church events this fall is that we are keeping our church kitchen closed, and holding off for now on preparing, serving, and/or sharing any food or drink of any kind at any of our gatherings (large or small). The church kitchen will remain empty of food, all of the kitchen equipment will remain switched off and unplugged, and the kitchen doors will remain closed and locked.

For many of us it has seemed strange, and will continue to seem strange, to attend ministry events at the church building and not be able to serve coffee and tea, or share a tray of snacks, or eat a small meal together. But when we think of those who have lost loved ones to this still unpredictable, often invisible, and all-to-often life-stealing virus, having to forego the sharing of food and drink together feels like – as the Apostle Paul wrote – a “light and momentary” affliction. And we know that Christ himself is the real source of all fellowship and all sustenance for us as members of his body.

Please note that those who attend events at the church are still permitted to bring in their own coffee, tea, bottled water, etc for their own consumption. We will review our policy on food and beverage service at the beginning of next year.

The saddest result of having to make the decision to keep our kitchen closed is that we have had to eliminate the staff position of Kitchen Coordinator, which means that we have had to release our sister Kathy Sawatzky from her employment with the church. Kathy has served diligently as our “food and beverage manager” since May of 2017. Although Kathy has been home on paid leave since the end of March, she will be in the office for a few days next week to close out her office, and her last day of work will be Wednesday, September 16. We send her with our prayers for God’s sweetest blessings on her, as she journeys with him into the next chapter of her life.

## Board of Elders Update

Our newly formed Board of Elders met for the first time since the 'online AGM' held in July. Our first meeting was largely about orientation, the sharing of information, and the appointment of elders to both the executive and various committees. Here is our list of appointees:

Chair: Keith Carpenter  
Vice Chair: Bert Doerksen  
Treasurer: Dave Verwoerd  
Secretary: Gord Mosey

Community Care Committee:

Gord Carpenter, Bert Doerksen, Frank Kucey, Jonathan VanderMeer, Dave Verwoerd

Missions Committee:

Keith Carpenter, Ken Silen, Tore Jorgensen

Membership:

Bert Doerksen, Frank Kucey

Please join me in praying for our new Board.

*Regards,  
Jamie Fox*

### Church Office

The church office has resumed its regular hours of

Mondays - Thursdays, 830am - 430pm

Available now ...

Our Daily Bread Oct/Nov/Dec large print

Momentum September edition

Weekly Prayer Guide Tuesday edition

## August Giving Report

Total giving to the church by way of tithes & offerings for the month of August totaled \$78,999. This represents a 23% reduction from the total amount of giving that we received during August of last year.

Our total year-to-date giving has been \$550,344. This represents a \$142,928 (or 21%) shortfall on how much we would have needed to have received by now in order to be 'on budget' for giving under this year's (Covid-revised) budget.

### Financial Giving

*Cheerful, sacrificial giving is part of our life in Christ, an act of worship to the living God & an expression of trust in Him. Your generosity helps us fulfill our vision of knowing Jesus & making Him known.*

#### Online via Pushpay

Make a secure, one-time donation or set up a recurring gift to the church using *Pushpay*. Use a credit card & designate where you want your gift to go.

#### Online Banking

There are 2 ways to give through your financial institution's online banking site:

##### 1. Bill Payment

Add **Sevenoaks Alliance Church** as a payee. Note your offering envelope number as your account number.

##### 2. E-Transfer

Add **life@sevenoaks.org** as a payee. Enter the amount you want to give & make up a security question. Then be sure to send the security question answer for the e-transfer in a separate email to **life@sevenoaks.org** so that we can accept it.

#### Cheque

Make a cheque payable to *Sevenoaks Alliance Church*. Ensure that your name or offering envelope number is clear for tax receipt purposes. Place the completed cheque in an envelope & mail or bring it to the church office.

*Thank you for supporting the ministry of Sevenoaks Church!*

### Contact Information

Sevenoaks Alliance Church  
2575 Gladwin Road  
Abbotsford BC V2T 3N8

Help us keep your information current.  
Contact Tammy at the church office or  
email [ttoews@sevenoaks.org](mailto:ttoews@sevenoaks.org)