

Reopening Grace U B Church
Sunday Service 10:00am

June 9/2020

Dear Church Family:

We received word on Monday that the Government of Ontario is now allowing churches to reopen in the Niagara area as of Friday, June 12. We praise God that we are now allowed to publicly gather for worship once more! However, we are asking for your patience as we reopen. First of all, remember that we are a little out of practice leading a live worship service! Also, for the time being, at least, we must factor the potential spread of COVID 19 in how we manage our worship gathering. Church simply will not be the same as it was prior to March 22! It will likely be some time before things return to “church as usual” (i.e., back to pre-COVID-19 norms). The COVID-19 pandemic in its present form will pass. One day we’ll look back on this time and see clearly that God was with us and was working in our midst for good. Knowing this, we can turn to him today and ask him to give us the discernment, compassion, and faith to make the right decisions for our churches at this time. We ask that you be gracious as we make the transition back to weekly worship gathering.

Also, please remember that the decision to attend the public reopening of the Grace Church Sunday morning service is your personal decision to make. Although we will need to take attendance to facilitate contact tracing purposes (in case someone who attends begins exhibiting symptoms later), we understand if you don’t feel ready to join us for worship.

The following recommendations might help you in making your decision:

- (1) If you’re in a high-risk demographic, we would encourage you to not physically attend at this time but take advantage of our online options.
 - (a) More vulnerable individuals include those who are in assisted living and nursing home facilities and those with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart/lung disease, or other respiratory illnesses. They also include people who have compromised immune systems.

(b) The service will be “live-streamed” through our YouTube channel. We will continue to send out the web address for the service ahead of time and ensure that it is posted on our website (www.graceub.com) both for livestreaming and for your enjoyment later.

(2) When you return to Grace Church services, you’ll find that things are not the same as before. The staff and leadership of our Church are attempting to make the best decisions for everyone from both a health and spiritual standpoint, according to God’s Word ... while maintaining the freedom of personal responsibility and diversity of conclusions around the recommendations regarding COVID 19... which continue to change. We do ask that in all things we follow the directive of Jesus to Love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27).

For Everyone Coming Back to Grace Church Services:

- (1) Complete a self-assessment prior to attending (see below) and please stay home if you have any symptoms, suspect you could be ill or have been recently exposed to someone who has been unwell.
- (2) The Grace Church facility will be sanitized. High traffic areas, including restroom facilities, will be disinfected prior to and between each of the services. [However, we request that everyone use the bathroom at home prior to coming to limit usage of the church’s facilities.]
 - (a) Parents of children up to grade 5 are to accompany their children to the restrooms.
- (3) Please remember to practice social distancing. Greeters and ushers will not shake hands or touch people. Please refrain from handshaking and hugging and other forms of physical contact for the time being even if the other person gives you permission to do so.
- (4) Bulletins will not be handed out or available. Bring your own pen or pencil if needed.
- (5) We have suspended our coffee and after church snack and fellowship for the time being.
- (6) We will have hand sanitizing stations at both the office and sanctuary entrances. We will also have other stations throughout the sanctuary and foyers.

- (7) We will be unable to pass offering plates during the service. Please deposit offering envelopes into the offering box in the foyer on your way in. Please keep in mind that due to changes in banking practices because of COVID 19, offerings will be counted and processed around the 15th and the 30th of each month.
- (8) We are allowed to have 30% of our full sanctuary capacity (40 people at a time). We are therefore putting the following practices in place:
 - (a) We will be roping off every second pew and encourage you to sit as far apart as possible (families, and a “bubble” of two related households may sit together.) Please keep in mind that this may mean that you can’t sit in your favorite place. We appreciate your patience.
 - (b) The first pew in each row will be reserved for the pastor, worship leaders and their families.

(c) We will ask everyone to register via email (secretary@graceub.com) or call the church office at 905-894-3462 before Friday at 1:00 p.m to reserve your seats for the service.

- (a) Parents, we ask that you always keep your children with you.
- (9) There will be no Children’s Ministries (Nursery, Sunday School or Junior Church) at this time. The crib room in the Nursery is available to nurse babies (not for toddlers to play).
- (10) We will aim to keep our service around one hour.
- (11) If you wish to sing, you will be required to wear a mask. If you do not wish to wear a mask, please do not sing but rather worship the Lord in your heart. The worship team, and the pastor, for practical purposes will not be wearing masks when they are at the front. However, they will be maintaining social distancing during that time.
- (12) The use of face masks will be your personal decision and will not be mandated. However, we do encourage you to wear one. Please bring your own mask if possible. We expect everyone to be gracious and accepting of those who choose differently than you! However, if you chose not to wear a mask, please do not sing (see point above).
- (13) At the conclusion of the service, each row will be dismissed separately. Please do not leave behind any paper, trash, or personal belongings.
 - (a) Please leave the building as soon as you are dismissed. This will allow us to have enough time to disinfect the areas that need it. If you wish to visit, please do so outside with proper physical distancing.

Self-Assessment Questions:

- * Are you feeling fevered/chills
- * Do you have a new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain, difficulty swallowing, new loss of taste/smell, conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- * If yes to any of the above, Do not come to church, Call COVID Call-in Centre or email occhealth@nwhealthcare.ca

All of this information will be posted on our church website.

Again, thank you for your patience. It has been a long 2 ½ months as we have awaited the go ahead to re-open for worship and we now have many things to keep in mind. We look forward to worshipping with you again!