

## Dear Pembina Parish Families,

It has been so long since we have gathered as a community of faith. The decision to close our churches back in March 2020 was such a difficult one - but necessary, given the unknown threat of covid-19. As the pandemic continues, many of us have come to accept a new normal at home, at work, and in the community. For the last month the Leadership Team has been hard at work discerning what the new normal will be for in-person worship and we are pleased to announce that Pembina Parish is ready to re-open our churches and welcome you to back to worship this **Sunday, September 12.**

*As we will be doing things a little differently, please try to be patient and considerate as we navigate new ways of worshipping together.*

- To protect others, please do not attend if you have any covid-like symptoms or are feeling unwell.
- **Masks are mandatory for all indoor gatherings in public places. All attendees are asked to use hand sanitizer and sign-in upon entry.**
- Ushers will be present to seat you in the sanctuary. As you wait your turn to sign in or be seated please remain 2M apart from other parishioners not in your family cohort.
- Responsive reading is invited as well as non-vocal participation in music (aside from our soloists).
- Seating will be arranged in pews or chairs with social distancing being observed. Ushers will assist you with seating upon arrival to and exiting from the service.

We regret that there will be no Sunday school at this time. Our hope is to resume Sunday school programming in October. On Sundays without Sunday school, the minister will pay special attention to making services accessible for our younger members. If bringing young children to services, please monitor your children to ensure that safe physical distancing requirements continue to be met throughout the service.

We will continue to record our services and upload to YouTube making it possible for you to participate in services from the safety of your home if you feel more comfortable and safer doing so.

### **Seating for individuals and cohort groups**

According to Manitoba Health guidelines we are able to have 50% of our seating capacity for worship services, which at St Pauls' equates to 200 people within the sanctuary and 100 people in the CEU and at Zion Calvin equates to 50 people. :

At St. Paul's rows of chairs will be placed 6 feet apart and at Zion-Calvin folks will be seated in every other row. 6 feet (or 3 chairs) should be respected between household groups.

Ushers will be happy to assist you with seating.

### **Offering During Worship Service**

Offering will not be collected during the service at this time. The offering plates will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary. You may give your offering when entering or exiting the sanctuary. We will also continue to accept donations by mailing in a cheque, dropping donations at the East door drop box (St. Paul's), using the Canada Helps button on the Pembina Parish website, e-transfer, or by PAR. Email Laurie if you need assistance at [office@peminaparish.com](mailto:office@peminaparish.com)

### **Coffee**

We are currently unable to provide coffee/tea as we have in the past. You are welcome to bring your own coffee/tea/water in a sealed cup, travel mug, or water bottle.

### **Parish Meetings/Gatherings/Funerals/Weddings:**

Indoor Gatherings and organized events such as weddings, funerals, banquets, receptions and self-help groups:

Weddings and Funerals:

- Indoor weddings and funerals remain limited to 50 people, or 50 per cent capacity whichever is greater. Effective September 7, proof of vaccination will be required for weddings held in indoor licensed facilities.
- Outdoor weddings and funerals are limited to 500 people, or if an outdoor venue has a capacity limit, the allowed capacity is 50 per cent or 150 people, whichever is greater.
- At this time we will NOT be serving lunches post funerals

Small Group Meetings (Interest Groups) have several options when meeting:

- Continue to meet virtually
- Meet outdoors physically distant
- If all are fully vaccinated and there is consensus, meet in person. Participants would still be physically distant and/or masked if physical distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained

### **Other Important Notes:**

- Everyone will be notified by the usher when they are able to leave their seats in an orderly fashion and maintain social distancing measures.
- Two metres of physical distancing is strongly recommended for all activities except for brief exchanges where masks are used, or if non-permeable barriers (e.g., Plexiglas) are in place. Mask use is required in indoor public places.

### **House Group Volunteers Needed**

In order to help us implement the protocols we currently need to follow, we require a few volunteers from House Groups each Sunday. We will need:

- 2 greeters (to sign in attendees and ensure use of hand sanitizer)
- 2 ushers to seat people and control traffic flow
- 1 volunteer to monitor bathroom lineups and assist where needed

**\*\*All volunteers are required to wear masks. If you are willing to be a volunteer, please contact your House Group Leader or the church office.**

Thank you for your kindness and respectful understanding as we all adjust to these new changes and move forward. We look forward to connecting with you!

Pembina Parish Leadership Team