



COVID-19

What we are doing to protect you when you come for a worship service

At Owen Sound Alliance Church the Staff and Elders have met and prayed, and have implemented best protocols and practices to protect all those who enter our building for a Sunday service gathering. While we know the Lord protects those who seek and ask Him, we also know that we are to submit ourselves to government authority. Therefore, the following protocols and practices have been established based on current information from all health organizations – federally, provincially and publicly, to mitigate the risks of COVID19 transmission. Based on this knowledge, attending our services is at your own discretion.

- Our gathering times will look different to what has been our 'norm', but we are able to worship together in many ways: testimonies, scripture reading, listening to music, mission updates, the message, and much more. A number of things will be pre-recorded, while the message will be live, as well as streamed online. This way we will keep the number of people involved in an actual live service to a minimum.
- There will be no singing at the services as it is considered a high-risk activity for the spread of the virus.
- The offering will be collected in boxes located near the doors to the sanctuary. Either on your way out or in to the sanctuary you can drop your offering envelopes in these boxes. Offering envelopes will not be provided in the pews at this time, but will be available at the table as you enter.
- You will also notice no hymnbooks, bibles, or prayer and welcome cards in the pews to keep the handling of these items to a minimum. It also makes sanitizing the sanctuary easier.
- Bulletins and other paper forms of communication will not be available. Please continue to access our online electronic communication methods.
- Communion will be provided through pre-packaged juice and cracker combo packs that will be available on a Sunday we have communion. This prevents multiple people handling the elements and trays, and possible transmission of the virus on surfaces.
- We will not be having any fellowship time following the services.
- There will be no children or youth programming. However, each Sunday we will have available a *Sunday School in a Bag* for children ages pre-school to grade 6. These will be available at the table as you enter the building, and will be taken home at the end of the service.

- Access within the building will be limited to the balcony, sanctuary and main floor washrooms. Basement access is restricted in order to maintain cleaning and disinfecting to manageable areas by staff and volunteers. Also all offices, including the main office will be locked.
- Our building will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the beginning of the first service, between services, and after the last service. All surfaces such as doors, door handles, bannisters, tables, pews, other hard surfaces, and washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Everyone planning to attend a service must read our risk assessment document each week before coming.
- Everyone attending will have their name and contact information recorded to provide a 'contact tracing' list for public health should anyone present with COVID-19 symptoms who has attended one of our services.
- Hand sanitizer will be required to be used by everyone coming into our building and will be provided at our doors, as well as other areas where required.
- There will be only one entrance open to the building. This will be the front doors facing 7th Ave. East, along with the wheelchair access door (*only for those using a wheelchair or walker, or who have physical disabilities*).
- Physical distancing of at least 2 meters (6 ft.) will be maintained at all times inside and outside the church building. Markers will be placed on the floors and pews will be marked where seating is available – depending on whether you are a family with children, a couple or just yourself.
- Shaking of hands, hugging and other forms of physical greetings will not be permitted in order to maintain physical distancing and prevent the risk of transmission.
- Facemasks must be worn by everyone entering the building to protect yourself and others.

If you have any questions or concerns please check with any staff member, send an email, or call.