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July 3, 2021

Restrictions Loosened!

As of July 1, worship services can return to normal.

There are no mask requirements. There are no capacity limits. There are no physical distancing requirements. Gatherings before and after services are permitted. Sharing hospitality (including meals) is permitted. Singing is permitted.

Throughout July and August (weather permitting) we will worship outdoors at St. Andrew's. Otherwise, we will move indoors for worship.

Monthly Jazz Vespers returns on Sunday, July 25 at 4 pm.

Monthly Taizé-style contemplative services return on Sunday, September 22 at 4 pm.

In keeping with Step 3 of BC's Re-Start, St. Andrew's will continue to follow all guidelines regarding communicable disease prevention in public spaces and in the workplace.

June 10, 2021

Restarting Life at St. Andrew's

The Board met on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to discuss a start-up strategy for St. Andrew's and decided to proceed slowly and safely. Starting July 4, weekly outdoor worships begins through July and August (indoors if the weather is inclement) for a maximum of 50 people. Participants must register to attend worship before 4:00pm on Friday by calling Susan or Jason in the church office. They must also follow COVID safety measures, which are outlined below, as well as at the entrances to the church.

Beginning July 5, the Sanctuary will be open from 10:00am to noon on weekdays for prayer and meditation. A staff person or volunteer will be in the Sanctuary to welcome visitors and to explain our COVID guidelines. Outside groups have already booked space to hold workshops in the Friendship Room this summer. And on Sun, July 25 at 4:00pm we will resume monthly Jazz Vespers. As always, volunteers will continue to come and go during the week to prepare food for Thursday's Express Lunch / Bread Ministry, and Friday's Meal-to-Go programs. You will also see our enthusiastic community gardeners tending and watering their plants, as well as the communal herb garden.

We are extremely excited about this gradual return to "normal" community life. With your help, we expect plans to go seamlessly. The Board and staff are committed to following all COVID guidelines to ensure your safety.

St. Andrew's COVID-19 protocols

St. Andrew's United Church continues to observe all the protocols outlined by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and the <u>Pacific Mountain Regional Council of the United Church of Canada</u>. As per these protocols and our restart plan, most in-person worship and many church programs are being resumed gradually.

St. Andrew's food programs, Express Lunch / Bread Ministry on Thursdays (12-1pm) and Meal-to-Go on Fridays (2-3pm) will continue to run as they have been throughout. Meetings of church groups continue online. We will also continue to post our Sunday worship services to our YouTube channel, at least throughout the summer. <u>You can access</u> those here. Staff continue to work usual hours at the church during the week, while maintaining masking and distancing protocols. Office hours are Monday 9:00am - 1:00pm, Tuesday to Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If you are attending a church service or program in person, please follow these required steps:

- 1. pre-register (except for meal programs) and sign-in when you arrive
- 2. wear a mask/face covering when indoors unless you're eating or have a documented medical reason to abstain from mask use
- 3. when outdoors, wear a mask until you are seated, and again whenever you're moving around (ie going to the bathroom)
- 4. please wash your hands frequently either using our bathrooms or the hand sanitizer provided
- 5. maintain a 2m / 6ft distance from all other folk whether inside or outside the church building

For more info on what programs are running (online or in person), please check the website calendar or contact the church office: <u>office@st-andrews-united.ca</u> or 604-985-0408. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to keep everyone safe and healthy. We will continue to update you as the situation changes and we slowly re-open. Until then, stay safe, keep well, be kind.