

COVID – 19: Meaningful and Safe Gatherings at St Andrew’s Wesley

Keeping our community safe and connected during COVID 19 is a key priority for all of us. The staff team met today to review our services, programs and events using the Health Canada Guidelines for Mass Gatherings. Those criteria are:

Of High Importance to consider:

- 1) Participant age – does it include adults over 60 and children?
- 2) Do the participants have compromised immune systems?
- 3) Is it a large gathering?
- 4) Will there be singing or physical contact at the gathering as both offer a high risk of transmitting the virus?
- 5) Are you sharing food and beverages?
- 6) Is there 2 metre spacing between participants?
- 7) Have people been out of the country in the last 14 days to one of the high-transmission countries?

In using this criterion, we have made the decision to cancel or change key elements of the following programs and worship services until MARCH 30th:

Until March 30th the following programs have been cancelled:

Spero Choir	Breaking Bread
Gospel Choir	Good News Café
Congregational Choir	Seniors Lunch
Men’s Breakfast	Parent & Tot
Refugee Fundraiser Dinner	Stitching Circle
Women’s Circle	Senior’s Roundtable

At this point all other programs and events will continue as scheduled.

We will change our Worship services in the following ways:

Sunday Morning Service:

- 1) Please spread out as much as possible in the hotel ballroom. We’ll set-up fewer chairs which will allow more space.
- 2) The new form of passing the peace will continue and instructions will be provided at worship
- 3) Music will be offered; however, changes will be made around singing which we will share at worship

- 4) Coffee Time will shift to Beverage Time as only juice boxes will be served. (We understand that this is contrary to our environmental beliefs but is a temporary measure attending to the safety of all). No food will be served.

Jazz Vespers Service:

- 1) No coffee or food will be served
- 2) Chairs will be spread out as much as possible

Candlelight & Music Service

- 1) Burning of prayers will continue
- 2) No prayers will be offered with the minister, but...
- 3) Prayer requests will be received

Consider staying home if you can say yes to any of the following:

- 1) I have travelled in the last 14 days to or from countries at risk
- 2) I am feeling sick
- 3) I have a compromised immune system

We will keep you updated on any changes on Facebook, Instagram and the website. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Rev Dan Chambers @ 604-260-6048 or Diane Mitchell @ 604-260-6413.

This is a tough decision that was not made lightly. We want to err on the side of caution to ensure that no one in our congregation or extended groups contracts COVID – 19 from our gatherings. We understand that these precautions will result in a loss of community to many of us. Please know that our staff is committed to being available if you are feeling isolated, without community or in need of pastoral support.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we maneuver our way through these uncertain times.