



Knox Presbyterian Church

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“And all the believers met together constantly....”

Acts 2:44

To the Congregation of Knox,

As a congregation we have not been able to meet together for at least six months. We have kept in touch and have had the opportunity to worship and hear God's word online each week, thanks to the internet. However, perhaps now is the time to consider coming together again for worship. As a gathering for worship, we have not been affected by current changes to restrictions on social gatherings. Our plan is to resume services on Thanksgiving, **Sunday, October 11 at 10 am.**

When we do, things will be quite different from the last time we met together in March. Be assured though that Session and the church staff will take every precaution to ensure your safety from the Covid virus. However, before detailed plans are made, Session would like to know how many of the congregation would be willing to attend church each Sunday. Covid regulations dictate that a **maximum of 30 people** can be in the pews for a service. If more than 30 indicate a willingness to attend, plans will have to be made to accommodate two (or more) Sunday services. There will be no singing during the service, although humming is acceptable. Hymn books and pew Bibles will not be used. Children and Youth activities and the Nursery will not be available. Children should remain with their parents during the worship service.

To help you to make a decision, attached is an explanation of the requirements mandated by Ontario Health and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It would be appreciated if you would return the enclosed information sheet indicating your interest to participate in services at Knox by **Sunday, September 27**. If your decision is not to participate for in-person gatherings, a response is not necessary.

It is the intention of Session that online services will still be provided. The message preached by Rev. Kim will be recorded and incorporated into the online format for distribution on the Sunday afternoon following the Service.

To register for attending in-person services, please fill out the attached form provided, or you may also register online at our website at knoxmanotick.ca. The deadline for registration is **Sunday, September 27**. Once you have registered, you do not need to register again. Due to health regulations, you will be required to make a reservation each week to be able to attend Sunday morning worship. This must be done **every Saturday by 6pm**. To make a reservation, please respond to the link on the church website (www.knoxmanotick.ca) or phone the church at 613-692-4228, and provide the names of those attending and confirm the self-assessment has been completed. Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. The maximum is 30 people. Notifications will be sent if this is exceeded.

Please prayerfully consider all the aspects of attending a worship service, including the health of yourself, your family and any extended family members.

Before the Service

1. Register your intention to attend (we need to develop a system which will include the recording of contact information). Once you have registered, weekly reservations by Saturday at 6pm is necessary by phone or responding to our website.
2. Self-assess for symptoms of Covid infection using the Ottawa Public Health screening tool (attached). If you feel ill, do not attend services.
3. Ensure you have a mask for everyone attending.
4. Be prepared to line up outside the church while ushers guide each party to seats in the Sanctuary.
5. Use hand sanitizer upon entering the building
6. Follow directions of the ushers who will seat everyone from the front to the back of the church, using alternating pews and maintaining a 6 ft interval between families.
7. Keep coats and other outer wear with you at your seat.

During the Service

1. Masks must be worn during the service.
2. Singing is not permitted, although humming is acceptable
3. If at all possible, remain in place during the whole service
4. Keep at least 6 feet between different households in the pews
5. The Offering Plates will not be circulated. Baskets for envelopes will be placed on the ledges at the exit to the Sanctuary

After the Service

1. Leave the Sanctuary as directed by the ushers. Exit will be from the back to the front, in reverse order of entering.
2. Use hand sanitizer when exiting the building.
3. Socializing inside the building is prohibited so as to not delay people wishing to leave. However, meeting outside is acceptable, providing that 6 ft separation is maintained.