

Prairie Spirit Responds to COVID-19

The relatively high vaccination rate in Winnipeg has resulted in a drop in COVID-19 cases over the summer. This has allowed us to cautiously open our building to our renters and limited use by the congregation. However we must also plan for the possible rise in cases of the Delta variant so all COVID-19 protocols will be followed. The latest Public Health Orders that came into effect on August 7th did not change the rules for PSUC except to require that everyone entering PSUC will wear a mask at all times while in the building.

We are excited to announce that beginning on September 12, our new minister, Susan McIlveen, will be providing Sunday services. At this time they will be available on-line only.

Funerals and weddings in the sanctuary are permitted. To allow for physical distancing, the number of people in attendance will be restricted to a maximum of 90 attendees plus one officiant, the music director, soloist and the tech team.

The Portage Avenue Food Bank, which operates out of Prairie Spirit United Church every second Friday, is permitted to continue. Clients arrive in two cohorts, the number of workers is limited and all COVID-19 safety protocols are followed.

At our August 31 meeting, the Oversight Council discussed how we will move forward based on these new regulations and the possibility of a rise in COVID cases due to the Delta variant. Just like every other church in Winnipeg, we are looking at how and when we will return to in-person worship safely. Be assured that your Oversight Council will continue to take a thoughtful and cautious approach to reopening our sanctuary to in-person worship. All decisions we make and procedures we put in place will be to ensure that our congregation, staff, renters and visitors feel safe and welcomed when they come to Prairie Spirit.

If you need to speak with our minister, Susan McIlveen, or our Office Administrator please phone (204) 832-1000 or email office@prairiespirituc.org

Complete details of the public health order are now posted online at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders-soe-11122020.pdf