

GILMOUR MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

COVID 19 Response



Dear Congregation,

I am deeply encouraged that by God's amazing grace the marvelous work of the Lord has carried on at Gilmour. I am thankful for the technology we have been able to utilize, like our Sunday morning 'drive-in' outdoor services broadcasted through FM radio transmission and live streaming services through the internet. I'm thankful to God for all who are "tuning in," supporting the Lord's work financially, and for the efforts made to look out for one another in Christian love.

Although much has changed around us, we remember that our identity as the people of God, and our mission to make disciples of Jesus, has not changed. It is my hope and prayer that we all grow more fully devoted to Jesus and draw near to Him who will draw near to us (James 4:8). May we be found faithful to uphold the great commandment and great commission in life and practice (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 12:28-31).

I want to encourage you to remain anchored in God's word and armoured with His heavenly armour. Take care of your soul by daily engaging in God's word and in prayer. And as you are able, join others in corporate worship -following example of the early church and in obedience to the word of God (Acts 2: 42-44, Hebrews 10:25).

May the peace of Christ rule in all our hearts.

-Pastor Ben

This document has been created to further communicate our response to Covid-19 and is subject to change.

CHURCH CLEANING:

1. The church is being thoroughly cleaned each week, currently on Wednesdays or Fridays.
2. We ask that anyone using the church will wipe down surfaces they have touched with the provided sanitizers and paper towels (found in lower level of church, outside the kitchen).

OUTDOOR SERVICES:

- 1) We ask that vehicles enter and exit the church property using the north driveway to Chemong Road. This driveway provides the best visibility for oncoming traffic.
- 2) We are grateful that we can meet Sunday mornings for outdoor worship. We ask that all those attending maintain 2-meter distancing. These distancing measures apply to those sitting in lawn chairs as well.
- 3) Greeters will be encouraged to wear a mask unless they can keep a 2-meter distance between themselves and attendees as they enter the parking lot.

- 4) Upon entry into the parking lot (*north entrance off Chemong Road*), the greeters will hand out song sheets, children's work sheets, and communion supplies as needed. None of these will be collected at the end of the service.
- 5) We are grateful to God for the generosity of His people and your continued support through this time of pandemic. Offerings will be collected into the offering box as people enter or exit the service.
- 6) We ask that vehicles leave a space of about 6ft between each other in the parking lot.
- 7) Individuals may sit in lawn chairs outside their vehicles allowing them to still hear the service through the 88.3 FM station. A reminder, if you choose this option we ask you maintain social distancing.
- 8) Others may sit within hearing distance of the stage as long as the 2-meter distancing is adhered to.
- 9) We are currently developing guidelines for children's ministry and Fall start-up.
- 10) We ask that those needing to use the washroom facilities would follow the guidelines as posted outside the bathroom doors. And that children under 10 are accompanied by their parent/guardian.

WASHROOM USE:

1. When you enter Gilmour, please use the **South doors** (double doors) and then exit using the **North door** (single). Please note the signage posted at the entrance and throughout the building that clearly communicates our requirement to self-identify and not enter the building if you have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, believe you could have been exposed to someone with COVID-like symptoms, or if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms: respiratory issues, fever, or cough.

2. Please note the cleaning directions as posted at the washroom doors.

Please wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water. When soap and water is not readily available, using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol content can be effective when it is applied properly (nickel-sized portion) and massaged between each finger, over the tips of fingernails and applied to the lower wrist until the hands are dry.

We want to emphasize the proven effectiveness of hand hygiene which many experts agree is the single-most important method of reducing and preventing the spread of viruses.

After washroom use, we ask that you take a disinfectant wipe and re-enter the washroom using it to wipe down all areas touched. Start with door handles on both sides of the door; then paper towel dispenser; soap dispenser, sink taps; then toilet handle. Discard used disinfectant wipes in the waste can provided.

3. Parents/guardians please accompany children under 10.

INDOOR SERVICES:

1. When you enter Gilmour, please use the **South doors** (double doors) and then exit using the **North door** (single).
2. Please note the signage posted at the entrance and throughout the building that clearly communicates our requirement to self-identify and not enter the building if you have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, believe you could have been exposed to someone with COVID-like symptoms, or if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms: respiratory issues, fever, or cough.
3. Small groups of 10 or less may meet in the church if they follow the social distancing guidelines and cleaning procedures as indicated.
4. Please note the available hand sanitizer at the entrance and exit, the markings on floor which include directional arrows for traffic flow, and the modified seating arrangement in the sanctuary.

FACE MASKS:

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) has recommended the use of face masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained. PPH has also stated that face coverings are not mandatory in places of worship¹.

Disposable masks are available upon request for those who wish to wear them voluntarily.

As we navigate these challenging days, we find peace in the promise that God is with us always and is faithful to see us through. We rejoice in the fact that the Holy Spirit, godly wisdom, and the Bible are our guide. And as a leadership team, we pray you will join us as we strive to bring glory to God in our Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission.

In Christ our Lord,

-The Deacons and Pastors at GMBC,

August, 2020

Matthew 28:20

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

¹ <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-mandatory-face-coverings/faq-owners-operators/>