

Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church

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PASTORAL TEAM

Marla Langelotz, Pastor

Andrea De Avila, Associate Pastor

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TREASURER

Kris Kornelsen

September 3, 2021

Dear members of the Sargent community,

As fall begins, we hope the summer has allowed you some freedom to enjoy the outdoors and visits with family and friends! It has also been a blessing to gather with members of our church community in different locations several times throughout the summer. About ninety members of our congregation participated in these gatherings, and although many were missing, we were thankful to be able to meet in this way. It has been part of the reality of adjusting to life with COVID-19!

As pastoral staff, members of our Church Council, and the Board of Spiritual Concerns we continue to be concerned about the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all members and friends of our congregation. With this in mind, we have been considering fall programs for our congregation, especially the worship services. After some discussion we agreed to the following:

- **We will begin in-person worship services this Sunday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Services on Sunday, September 12, and following will begin at 10:00 a.m.**
- We have a sense that the vast majority of SAMC's vaccine eligible population has been doubly vaccinated. We are happy about this since we see vaccines as one key tool to ending this pandemic. We encourage vaccination, as it significantly helps with creating a safe environment for those attending worship.
- Mask wearing and observing physical distancing are also critical for everyone's safety. We will continue to follow provincial public health orders in this regard, that is, everyone (except those that are under 5 years of age) must wear masks and observe physical distancing.
- Hymnals and bulletins will be available for taking at each entrance and offering baskets will also be at the doors.
- Starting September 12, we will offer outdoor gathering opportunities for children/ youth and parents following the worship service. These will be outside at the Sargent School playground, weather permitting. There will also be fellowship time in the church basement after the worship service.
- We invite those who prefer not to attend the worship services in person to remain connected with our community through the live-streamed services which will continue this fall.
- The children's choir will not be meeting this fall; the adult choir plans are still in process.
- In general, we will continue to follow the provincial health guidelines as they develop.

We welcome responses from members of the congregation and will continue to evaluate the best way forward in this rather uncertain time. May God's Spirit guide and direct us!

Victor Kliewer,
Congregational Chair