

Zion Presbyterian Church

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Minister: **Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage**
Music Director: **Mrs. Faye Barrett**
Clerk of Session: **Mr. John Barrett**

July 20, 2020

Dear members of the Congregation of Zion Presbyterian Church.

This letter contains news of a great blessing that is coming our way. Your prayers have been answered and our beloved church will reopen on **Sunday, August 2, 2020.**

However, the reopening procedure is a complicated one; it will not be business as usual, at least for the foreseeable future. In brief, you will need to:

- **Register online, or by phone, to attend church**
- **Wait to be seated by an usher when you arrive**
- **Maintain physical distancing inside and outside the church**
- **Exit the church the same door you entered**

Two service times

Zion will hold two Sunday morning services; one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m. P.E.I. public health COVID-19 restrictions limit the church to a maximum of 100 people per service in the sanctuary. However, the 100 people will need to be divided into two separate groups of 50 individuals.

We are calling our two groups the Prince Street Congregants, because they will enter via the wheelchair ramp on the Prince Street side of the church; and the Grafton Street Congregants, because they will be required to enter using the steps on the Grafton Street side of the church. Those steps are nearest to the intersection of Prince and Grafton Streets (or the traffic light).

In addition to entering the church at two different locations, once inside the sanctuary the two groups of 50 must also be separated by 12 feet from each other. Protocols strongly forbid any mixing or mingling of the two groups. (By the way, there will be no rules against a friendly wave or smile!) Sections of the sanctuary will be clearly marked off by ropes to maintain the 12-foot separation, which is the length of 13 versions of the King James Bible.

Help on hand

Ushers will be on hand to help direct and accompany members of the two groups to their seats, and also to answer any questions. Upon entering the church, an usher will check a Congregant's name from the registration list, and an individual, or representative of a "bubble," will sign the list.

Once in their seat, people must practice the normal physical distancing of six feet. However, if one or more people enter as a "bubble," they will be allowed to sit beside each other, just as they would at a restaurant, for example.

Each group of Congregants will have use of a separate washroom. The routes to those separate washrooms will be marked via ropes. Ushers will be on hand to help explain the washroom locations and the best way to get to them.

Reservation information

The biggest change for members of the congregation is that they will need to reserve their seat(s) in the sanctuary. There are two valid reasons for this, both dictated by the COVID-19 protocols.

1) The church is only allowed to accommodate 100 people at a time (in two groups of 50). If 150 people show up for the 9 a.m. service, 50 will need to be turned away. That would be most unfortunate. 2) Protocols demand that the church collect the contact information for individuals in the event of an infection.

A link will be established on our Zion website at <https://zionpres.org/>, and also on the church's Facebook page. The link will accept reservations from Monday morning prior to each service. The link will ask individuals how many seats they would like to reserve. For example, just one if you are an individual, or four or five if you are part of a bubble.

People must register each week. They are asked to arrive by 8:55 a.m. for the 9:00 a.m. service, and by 10:55 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. service. Otherwise your seat will be given up and offered to someone else as needed. As a courtesy to others, please cancel a registration if for some reason you cannot attend.

Anyone who does not have a computer, or access to one, can call the church office at 902-566-5363 to reserve a seat. If you have a physical disability, or limited mobility issues, please call the church office to register so we can ensure you are able to access the sanctuary through the Prince Street entrance.

Anyone who shows up without a reservation will be asked to wait until five minutes before the service starts to see if a seat is available.

Although the reservation system will allow people to choose which service time and door they would like to enter, if that side of the church has reached its maximum number, the person will be redirected to the other door.

And finally, people must exit the church sanctuary from the same door they came in from.

As if all of the above is not enough to absorb, churchgoers will also notice a few other changes. Unfortunately, they all have the word “no” in front of them. There will be:

- No singing
- No printed materials
- No Bibles in the pews
- No Sunday School

However, there will be hand sanitization stations and locations to drop off donations.

Another very important fact is that the church will be disinfected between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

This letter asks that people accept the changes with joy in their hearts at the news our great church is about to reopen. The small sacrifices we will have to make to attend church pale in comparison to the pain and suffering COVID-19 is causing elsewhere. We on Prince Edward Island, and at Zion, are indeed blessed.

We also ask that people read what is printed below.

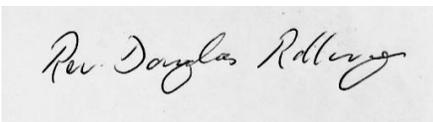
COVID-19 Policies

If in self-isolation or are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19 please do not attend the service. Symptoms include:

- o cough (new or exacerbated chronic)
- o headache
- o fever/chills
- o sore throat
- o marked fatigue
- o sneezing
- o congestion
- o body aches
- o runny nose

Observe proper etiquette for sneezing or coughing into your sleeve etc.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Douglas Rollwage", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Rev. Douglas Rollwage