



Morden Mennonite Church: Joining Our In-Person Worship Services

As we return to in-person worship services on **September 13**, here's what you need to know. These protocols are subject to Manitoba Health regulations and guidelines. While they may seem overwhelming at first, we will become more comfortable with them over time!

The week before each service:

- **Register with the church office by phone (204-822-7450) or email (mordenmennonite@outlook.com), giving the names of those in your household who will be attending.** This ensures we have the space to accommodate all who wish to come, and it provides an attendance record should public health officials need it in the event of a COVID-positive worshiper.
- **If you have not registered in advance and you would still like to come, you are welcome.** If we have adequate space for you, you will be registered at the door and you can join us.

On Sunday morning before the service:

- **Do a self-assessment:**
 - *Have you been outside of the western provinces or western Ontario in the last 14 days?*
 - *Have you been in contact in the last 14 days with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?*
 - *Have you been in a setting in the last 14 days that has been identified by public health as a risk for acquiring COVID-19?*
 - *Do you have a fever, shortness of breath, a cough, unusual fatigue, or loss of taste/smell?***If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, please do not come.** If you answer “yes” to the last question, consider contacting Health Links at 1-888-315-9257.
- **Please arrive after 10:10 am and no later than 10:30 am.** This will allow everyone to be settled in place (including greeters and ushers) by our 10:40 start time. Note that services will be shorter than they have been (approximately 45 minutes) to reduce time indoors.
- **You will enter through the back (north) door of the church from the parking lot.** The front door will only be used for those with special mobility challenges. Please remain in household groups 2m/6ft apart as you wait to enter the church.
- **A volunteer will greet you at the door and check your registration** (or register you if you haven't pre-registered and there is room for you to attend). **Each person will sanitize their hands** with the sanitizer provided. **Masks will be required**, with the exception of young children and those with breathing difficulties. You are encouraged to wear your own mask; if you do not have one, one will be provided.
- **After entering you will stand in line in household groups** at 2m/6ft distance down the hallway toward the entrance to the sanctuary.
- **An usher will greet you at the sanctuary entrance and take you to sit in your household group in one of the designated spots.** A specific pew can be requested, as long as there is sufficient space for your household.

During the service:

- **Instead of congregational singing, you will be encouraged to hum along, mouth the words, or reflect on the words being sung.** Hymnbooks and songbooks will not be used; words will be projected on the screens. If you wish, you can bring your own hymnbooks and songbooks, or borrow some from the church to bring each week. There will be instrumental music and individual or small ensemble vocal music.
- **Parents are encouraged to bring their own books or toys for their children and keep these items with them.** Pre-packaged activity bags will also be available. If a parent needs to leave with a young child for a time, they may use the foyer. The nurseries will not be available.
- **The children's story time will be a pre-recorded video, or a story shared from the front with the pictures visible on the screens.** Children will remain with their parents.
- **For the congregational sharing time, you are encouraged to submit your sharing item to the church office during the week before.** These will be read by the worship leader during the service. If anyone has an urgent item on Sunday morning to share, the worship leader will come to you at that point in the service, listen to you share it (or receive a note from you with your sharing item on it), and then repeat it for the congregation to hear.
- **An offering basket will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary, or you can give electronically (see the church website for info).** There will be no offering plate passed.
- **There will be no physical contact across household groups.** Physical distancing is required throughout the church, except for passing by someone (such as using the aisle to go to the washroom).
- **There will be no shared food or drink before, during, or after the service.** This means there will be no in-person communion services, and no Common Ground coffee time before the service.

After the service:

- **You will be ushered out of the sanctuary, from back to front, by household groups.** As you exit the church you will be encouraged to **sanitize your hands** with the sanitizer provided. Special thanks to our greeters and ushers!
- **Please do not "linger and mingle" in the church building.** If you wish to do so outside of the building, maintaining safe distances, you are welcome to do so.
- **The church will be cleaned for the next event.** Special thanks to our custodians!

If you have questions about these protocols or would like more information about how these came to be developed, please see the full document available at the church office or at www.mordenmennonitechurch.com.