



ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.*  
(Proverbs 25:25 NIV)

Friday, October 22, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew's,

It has been 19 months since we closed our Church doors due to COVID19 – and 1 year since we began to stream our online services from the sanctuary – and our souls are certainly “weary”! Church – especially ‘being in Church’ – feels like a far off, “distant land” we long to return to. As I write this, we are now well in to October – later than usual for our ‘Fall’ letter, but I write to bring you the “water” of “good news!” ***St. Andrew's will be re-opening for in-person/in-Church worship on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>!***

At a specially called Session meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Session passed six recommendations that dealt with St. Andrew's re-opening date, the requirement that all Staff, volunteers, and persons attending our in-person/in-Church worship services must show proof of their full vaccination status, the implementation of both the Peel Region of Health and PCC's COVID19 protocols, the approval of an entry/exit plan, and an initial attendance limit of 50 persons. These decisions took time, and were not taken lightly: they were made to ensure the safety of all of St. Andrew's members – and to ensure that our return to in-person/in-Church worship will provide a sense of confidence. Enclosed with this letter is the information that you will need to prepare yourself for your return to worshipping when St. Andrew's reopens including information about our new, online registration site (and the phone number to call if you are not online), all of our protocols, and how to enter the building for the services. which will continue to be streamed live – and reposted – each Sunday. Please review the enclosed material – or, for more about what's happening at St. Andrew's, the reopening plans, the link to our new online service ‘registration’ system, as well as our past service videos, and more, go to the St. Andrew's website by clicking this link: [www.standrewsbrampton.ca](http://www.standrewsbrampton.ca)

When we return, our first service will be our annual Remembrance Day service – a special day for many at St. Andrew's. But, while we are returning to in- person/in-Church worship, Session has agreed that our online services will continue. I am proud of the fact that, despite the challenges of the pandemic, St. Andrew's never missed a service. This was the result of starting a new outreach medium with our live, online services. As a result of this, St. Andrew's ‘attendance’ now includes many who do not live in the Brampton area. Because of this, the Session has decided to further invest in our online presence and equipment.

Finally, I thank you that, over the pandemic, St. Andrew's has been blessed by your generous support! Having said this, COVID19 has required St. Andrew's to invest in areas that it had never focused on before – namely our new online presence. The Stewardship Committee has recommended that the 2021 Anniversary Offering be designated to the purchasing of new equipment for our online services. I encourage you to give generously by using and returning the enclosed Anniversary Offering envelope, our PAR program, or by going to our website and donating via our digital giving program to help fund this new and important aspect of St. Andrew's outreach.

In closing, I pray that you are well and safe – and that I will see you soon!

Yours in Christ,

  
Rev. Geoff Ross

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