

December 22nd, 2020

Greetings to the Members & Friends of Stanley Park Baptist Church!

It is with a sense of sadness that I'm writing this email to you, but as you know, a new province-wide lockdown was announced for the Province of Ontario yesterday. This means that we will have to make some changes with regard to our "in-person" meetings at the church.

The good news is that the lockdown does not take effect until 12:01 a.m. on December 26th. That means that the two "in-person" Christmas Eve services planned for 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. can still go ahead on Thursday, December 24th. This service will also be available on YouTube any time after 3 p.m. on the 24th for those who are unable, or uncomfortable in attending "in-person". Registration for either service is required for those who are planning to attend "in-person". If you would like to register, please contact the church office at 519-576-1100 or by email at office@stanleyparkbaptist.com.

Currently, provincial "red-zone" protocols allow for churches to gather "in-person" at 30% room capacity, which we have been doing, with roughly 50 people attending most Sundays. Sadly, the new lockdown restrictions allow a maximum of only 10 people to gather for "in-person" services. This means that as of this coming Sunday, December 27th, our "in-person" worship service will be restricted to only 10 people, including the pastor and possibly 1 helper. We would like to make this on-line service available for those who are still comfortable attending "in-person", but who do not have the ability to view it as a YouTube service at home. Registration is required. Please contact the church office at 519-576-1100.

Throughout the lockdown, regular Sunday morning worship services will continue to be provided via YouTube, and everyone is encouraged to join together at 10 a.m., or at your convenience, to participate from home.

It goes without saying that all other meetings and gatherings of the church can no longer be permitted as long as the current lockdown restrictions are in place. This includes youth gatherings, prayer groups, and small groups. Wherever possible, though, we would encourage these groups to continue to meet virtually. At present, the pastoral staff and church administrator will still be able to work from their offices in the church building, providing the established COVID-19 protocols are followed.

Needless to say, these restrictions are disheartening, especially at this time of year. As leaders, we are so grateful for your continued faithfulness as we all navigate these uncertain times. Though our celebrations will be very different in this COVID-19 year, let me take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Hope-Filled Christmas of God's Amazing Love! Please continue to pray for each other and to encourage one another as you are able.

Should you have any concern(s), please feel free to contact me as your Moderator (or the church office), and I will be sure to pass your concerns on to the appropriate personnel.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Paul Kowtecky
SPBC Moderator