

Dear VCMJ Family

We know that many of you are eager to get back to worshipping together and now that we have provincial approval, it can happen sooner than we expected.

As many of you are aware, the Saskatchewan Government has recently released guidelines for places of worship. Our team has been hard at work developing a strategy to slowly and safely reopen and begin the transition back to corporate gatherings in our church building. **Please take time to read through this entire document so that you can be fully informed on what returning to in-person gatherings will entail.**

As you will see, at every phase we are attempting to offer multiple opportunities to participate in our services to accommodate the varying circumstances that everyone is facing. As your Victory Church leaders, we take your health and safety very seriously.

Our desire is to offer services that are as safe as possible, however, we also understand that some of you are in a high-risk category and would prefer to return to public gatherings at a later date, so please do not feel under any pressure to attend our in-person gatherings at this time. Some of our families will also have to decide what works best for them until we are able to offer full children's ministry again. Please know that we are here to support you as you choose what manner of worship suits you best and we will continue our full church online experience including online kid's ministry (check out our Facebook page: VCMJ Kid's).

In this transitional season full of uncertainty, we anticipate many modifications to this plan. Please know that we are doing our best and we encourage you to maintain a humble abundance of grace and understanding for everyone. As the plan evolves, we will continue to update you but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing [pastorbarry@victorymj.com](mailto:pastorbarry@victorymj.com)

Here is what we anticipate for the first phase of re-opening:

- **Small Groups** – If your family has been gathering with other families according to the Saskatchewan guidelines, we would encourage you to consider gathering with those families to participate in the live stream service at home. Small gatherings are still the safest way to worship, and they accommodate fellowship more so than the current guidelines for corporate worship. We would love to know about your small group, and we would be happy to help with resources should you decide to worship or start a bible study together. Please contact us at [pastorbarry@victorymj.com](mailto:pastorbarry@victorymj.com)
- **Sunday Services** – Our first Sunday will be July 5<sup>th</sup> with two services: 9 & 11 am. We will be adhering to the Saskatchewan Government's Places of Worship Guidelines. There will be no children's ministry offered at this time, no coffee will be available, and we will change the way we operate to create a touchless service, including minimizing contact, following appropriate physical/social distancing rules, and removing all items that would require multiple points of contact (i.e. offering buckets, paper forms etc.)

Here are the guidelines we will have in place:

### **Service Registration**

All attendees will be required to register for the service of their choice by filling out an online form via our website ([victorymj.com](http://victorymj.com)) or app (search for VCMJ). The number of registrations will be limited to the capacity outlined by the Saskatchewan Government for this phase (30% of capacity or 150 whichever is less).

### **Seating**

Attendees should remain in their seats during the service duration and all seat groupings being 2 metres apart (4 chair width). Only family members from the same households will be able to sit in family groupings. Following the service, attendees will be dismissed row by row and in a manner that avoids cross traffic and allows for appropriate physical distancing during dismissal. You will exit via the Main St exit only.

### **Masks and Singing**

Masks will be worn by all staff and volunteers other than those that are on stage (for live streaming purposes) at all times while in a serving role and singing. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly encouraged, though masks are required if you plan to sing during the service. Masks will be provided at the entrance if you don't have one.

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Greeters and ushers will guide guests from the back entrance through the foyer along a designated path directly to the sanctuary and their pre-selected seats. They will ensure proper physical/social distancing is maintained while seating guests and at the end of the service, they will guide guests to the Main St. exit to avoid cross traffic where possible.

Our parking team will also be available prior to entering the building should you require any assistance or have any questions. There will physical distancing lines outside of our building should there be line up waiting to get in. Please be gracious with each other if this happens. 😊

### **Facilities**

Please use the rear entrance only to enter the building and exit only via the Main St doors to as to avoid cross-traffic. Hand sanitizer stations will be provided at the entry and exit points of the building, as well as at the giving stations and other areas as needed. We ask that everyone sanitizes their hands as they enter the building. Doors will be propped open, when possible, to minimize touchpoints. Surfaces such as door handles and counters will be sanitized before and after every service. Bathrooms will be reduced to half capacity to ensure physical/social distancing, and will be disinfected before, during, and after every service. Access to other areas of the building will be limited to staff and necessary volunteers only.

### **Screening**

We encourage those who plan to attend to take the self-assessment prior to attending. This self-assessment is currently available from the Saskatchewan government. Anyone with symptoms

(cough, fever, runny nose) is required to stay home. Anyone exhibiting symptoms upon arrival will be asked to return home and watch online.

### **Families**

Children are welcome to attend the service with their families but must remain with their parents/guardians at all times. Parental discretion should be used for children who need to use the washrooms.

### **Giving**

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to set up online giving through our app or website, or by emailing money transfers to [admin@victorymj.com](mailto:admin@victorymj.com). We will have two self-giving stations set up: one in the foyer and one at the Resource Centre. There will also be buckets to drop your giving into as you exit the sanctuary at the end of the service.

If you use an offering envelope...please no licky licky 😊

- **Note** – As you know, guidelines are continually changing. Please be assured we are monitoring this very closely and will be adjusting our plans accordingly.

**Church Online** – For those who are not quite ready to return to corporate gatherings, we will continue to stream our services on the church online, Facebook and YouTube platforms. These feeds can be accessed via our website or app and we encourage you to meet with others in your circle and be the church together.

It is our hope that this document provides a glimpse of what our re-opening strategy might look like in the coming weeks. We are aware that it will feel weird at first and not like our previous experience of church prior to COVID, but our desire is to love and protect one another as best we can.

The safety of our church and community is our top priority during reopening, and without a doubt, grace will be the key as we all try to work towards a successful reopening. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We are so excited to see all of you again in the weeks and months ahead.

God Bless!