

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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September 2nd, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

It feels good to be able to write you again as we begin the fall season and as this will be our first Sunday back in the sanctuary after an absence of almost six months. I will tell you more about what that will look like a little later. Things have changed this fall in terms of the preaching schedule. It will be as follows. I will be preaching the first Sunday of each month. Rev. John McIntyre will be preaching the second Sunday of each month and Rev. Beryl Orok will be preaching the third Sunday. I will be filling in any blanks. During those Sundays when I am preaching both printed and email copies of the service will be sent out. We cannot expect our guests to do the same.

I will be sending out the services where possible because I know that not everyone will be able or will chose to come to worship services at the church during the pandemic. I appreciate that these are difficult times and I do not want to put pressure on anyone. In the view of the elders, those who come to the services at the church are no better than those that choose to worship in their homes. You do what you feel the Lord leading you to do and what makes you most comfortable in your circumstances.

We are staring off this Sunday with a very special event – the baptism of Nora Jean Echlin! Nora was born after the lockdown on April 21st and for many of us this Sunday will be the first chance that we get to see her. Peri-Ann and Holden kindly provided me with this picture that will appear on the screen during her Baptism. What a joyous occasion this will be as we welcome Nora into our church family.

Now, I need to let you know about the protocol that will be followed this Sunday for those of you coming to worship at church. The measures may seem a bit draconian, but as we are all aware, things have



“... a place to belong!”

definitely changed in the presence of this pandemic. First off, apart from those entering by the handicapped lift, we ask that you enter the church by the Drummond Street doors closest to the library. We will try to have those doors open so that you will be able to walk right in. Everyone must wear a mask before they enter the building and that mask must remain on until you leave the building. We will provide a station so that you can sanitize your hands as soon as you enter. You will be ushered to your seat by one of the elders. Unfortunately, you will not be able to sit in your normal pews but the elders will begin seating people at the front of the sanctuary and working back. Two rows will be left vacant between every row that is occupied. Only families or those in the same “bubble” will be permitted to sit together. There will be no printed order of service, no hymn books and no Bibles in the pews. Everything that you will need for the service will appear on the screen or monitor. Our organist Ann Savage will be present to play the hymns but we will not be able to sing. You can hum the tune and pay close attention to the words on the screen. Let the meaning of the words seep into your hearts. The hymns will be shortened.

No offering will be taken up during the service but offering plates will be available at the back of the church for you to put your offering in. Come prepared to give your tithes to the Lord. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have Prayers for the People by the People during the service. Updates on those needing prayer will be sent out by email each week. Also, we will not be able to hold our usual fellowship time. At the close of the service, you will be dismissed one row at a time beginning at the back of the church. Keep your mask on until you are outside the building and save any visiting with friends until you are outside. Finally, I regret to inform you that we will not be able to hold Sunday School this fall. We will revisit this in January.

Whether you are with us in the sanctuary or are following the service at home, I trust that you will find the service meaningful and worshipful. May the Lord bless each of you richly.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Stephen Dunkin
Lock Mor
Big Rideau Lake

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