

Hello,

My name is Matthew Schoenhardt and I am speaking as both Lease Manager and Re-Opening team lead. I have two things to talk about.

1. Return to in-Sanctuary worship, and
2. Re-opening of the building for user groups.

We have decided to push back our return to in-Sanctuary worship from Sunday September 13th to Sunday October 4th in order to give us more time to practice the protocols for a safe return. We want to make sure we have them as solid as possible before we go live. October 4th is our target date, but it may change and we will keep you apprised in the weekly email as conditions in Edmonton may force us to change this date.

Returning to worship will look much the same as promised in the "[What to expect when you are expect to Worship in the Sanctuary](#)". The only difference will be adherence to the City of Edmonton's bylaws in that everyone must wear a mask. We hope that you can bring your own re-useable one, but if you can't we will provide single use masks at the door. You will be required to pre-register online or by calling the office as with social distancing space is limited and we are required to track all building users. Finally, big shout out to Don Tren and E2 who hooked us up with a fogging machine to kill viruses. This will make sanitation of the building both faster, cheaper and more effective.

I would like to make two points to makes about returning to in Sanctuary worship on October 4th:

1. Just because we can worship in the Sanctuary doesn't mean you should. While we are taking all the measures to ensure safety, doesn't mean that worshipping in the building will be risk free. Safety protocols are all about reducing transmission: they are not perfect and you may still get exposed to Covid if you come into the building. If you are at-risk for adverse Covid outcomes, or have household, friends and family with whom you are in regular physical contact with who are in high-risk groups, please strongly consider remote worship.
2. We will continue to provide remote worship services. They may even start to be available "live". The Tech team and Spiritual Formation are working

hard at that. Covid will be with for a while still, and we will continue to provide safe worship for everyone.

This week our Official Board provided clear direction on return to work and building use by us and by renters. E2 started school this week. They will continue to use their exclusive space and our upstairs meeting rooms. Their safety protocol is based off of the the strict Provincial safety protocols set by the Ministry of Education, and having read it, is very comprehensive.

We will be allowing Elite Dance Kids to return soon to their regular evening basement use. I have reviewed their safety plan, which is excellent, and will audit its implementation.

The Ghanaians will be allowed to return to worship in our Sanctuary shortly after us. We will lend them and teach them our processes.

All other rentals and user groups will be considered in January 2021.

For our internal user groups like, Wednesday Walkers, We Can, Yoga, Crafts, Bell Choir and others can return to the building. However, it will not be like before: you can't simply show up or call Jackie for a room. Alberta Health Services requires us to have documented safety plans and be able to demonstrate adherence to those plans. The Return team will work with internal user groups to ensure safety protocols are present and in-force. All users will need to ensure social distancing, wear masks, take attendance during their event, wipe down high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches etc) and use the fogging sanitizer after every event. This is required not just to comply with Alberta Health Services directions but to keep us safe, both the event attendees and those who and work in the building afterwards.

To conclude our building is not open like it was last February, but it will not be closed as it was in April. Following the safety protocols will reduce the risk of Covid exposure and make it safer for us to begin returning to the building. I say the building, not the Church. The Church isn't a building, it is our Community of Faith. The Church will never be closed.