



August 31, 2021



Message from Session

Dear friends

You will be reading this on the final day of August. We had all anticipated that by early September, further restrictions would be lifted and that our lives would be moving towards life as we knew it 'pre-Covid'. Sadly, this will not happen as soon as expected or hoped for. The number of Covid cases are rising because of the Delta variant, and Dr Bonnie Henry is asking us to be patient as restrictions are re-imposed.

In July we opened for in-person worship with precautions in place- indeed we chose caution, imposing more restrictions on our gatherings than required by the province. Session has agreed that at this time we will continue with our current safety measures in place: masks, social distancing, no singing, registration and a conservative maximum capacity of 70.

While faith communities have not been mandated to follow many of the protocols now required widely within the community, we might consider the words of Pastor Coggin's mediation on Sunday. It is not so much about the rule as the intent behind the rule. What does our heart tell us to do?

While it seems unlikely that churches will be mandated to require a vaccine passport for entry to worship, we might consider the 'intent' behind the vaccine passport. The requirement to produce a vaccine passport for entry to establishments and events is a 'rule'; the 'intent' of which is to encourage vaccination for all who are medically able to do so. The more people who are vaccinated the safer we will all be and, the faster we can combat this virus. By following the intent of the rule, even though churches currently are excused from this requirement or 'rule' we can do our part to reduce the spread of Covid. As Christians, we are asked to do more than the minimum, to do more than we are mandated to do- to act on the intent of the rule. This is indeed faith in action; we are called to be a light in the world. We do not 'have -to- have' a vaccine passport to attend worship, but we encourage everyone to be vaccinated and meet the intent of the passport.

Current requirements for those attending in-person worship at St Andrew's

- Do not attend if you, or anyone in your group, feels unwell, has a fever, persistent cough or other flu like symptoms.
- Registration is required this can be via the registration link in TWASA, via the St Andrew's website or by phone to the church office.
- The number of worshippers will be limited to 70.
- Wait in a socially distanced line, outside, until space is available for you to move forward to a seat.
- **It is strongly recommended that all those (12 years and older) attending the service wear a mask at all times when inside the building.
- Hand sanitizer is available for use at each door.
- Once seated remain in your seat until, at the completion of the service, you will exit as guided by an usher.

- Social distancing is achieved by sitting between the yellow tapes on the pews.
 - If, after being seated, you need assistance, or the use of a washroom, please raise your hand and an usher will come to you to assist. Stay safe.
- Blessings Colina Titus, Session Clerk

Laneway Get-together in September

Join us Thursday afternoons, between 2 & 4pm, outside in the laneway.

Come for the iced tea, shortbread and conversation or just to sit in the shade and enjoy seeing familiar faces.

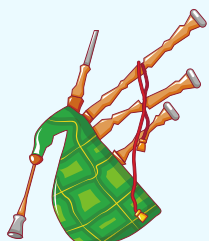
All welcome! Questions? Call Sheelagh - 250 385-5157

The laneway get together will continue through September depending on weather. If it is pouring rain, the meet up will be cancelled.



Volunteers Needed!

The two rooms that the Thrift Shop is currently in are being redecorated for new uses. Are you able to help pack up the items in the Thrift Shop, which will then be donated to other charities or suitable causes? If so, please contact Patricia Shuckburgh (250-381-1615) regarding access and scheduling, which we are coordinating to help keep people safe during COVID. We appreciate your help with this task! With thanks, Mission and Outreach Committee

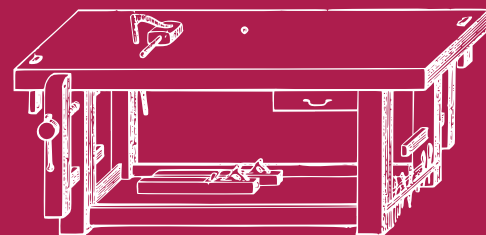
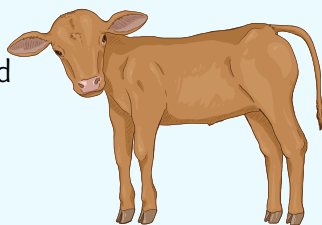


Long Weekend Activities

Looking for something to do this weekend? After canceling events in 2020, two of Victoria's longest running events (the Saanich Fair and the Victoria Highland Games) are both on this weekend.

[Click here](#) for information on attending the 153rd Saanich Fair.

[Click here](#) for information on the 158th Victoria Highland Games.



[Click here](#) for a video message from Pastor Mitch's workshop

Reservations for Sunday

[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form for this Sunday's service.

Those who do not have a computer are welcome to call Whitney at 778-587-1227 to reserve a spot at the service. Reservations need to be made by Friday afternoon.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125
- James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
- Mark 7:24-37

