



Giving Hope Today

The Salvation Army

Canada & Bermuda
Ontario Division

Meadowlands Corps



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July 15, 2021

Dear family and friends of Meadowlands;

We look forward to welcoming you inside the Church building for our first in-person worship service in over 16 months on July 25th! As we continue to work through the required documentation with respect to the re-opening for worship services, please be aware of the fluidity of the current situation and how rapidly plans may change.

To keep everyone safe, we will be sure to follow all regulations as set out by the Government of Ontario, Hamilton Public Health, as well as those issued by The Salvation Army (such as the use of masks, social distancing, hand sanitization etc.) As of July 16, we move into Phase Three of Re-Opening Plans for Ontario, and to ensure 2-meter physical distancing we will keep our attendance at 100-120 people. According to Hamilton Public Health we are permitted capacity that ensures 2-meter social distancing. As we monitor the situation our attendance capacity may increase over the weeks ahead.

The guidelines and plans to re-open are based on requirements of The Salvation Army, the Province of Ontario, and Hamilton Public Health. Following is a list of guidelines and procedures to ensure a successful and safe gathering:

- **REGISTRATION:** Registration will be required weekly. Attendees are required to indicate exactly who will be attending, as well as a phone number for contact tracing. An email will be sent out each week with registration instructions. We ask that you follow the instructions carefully to secure your spot in the service. Registration can be completed on the [online form](#) that will be sent out, by emailing brookelyn.millar@salvationarmy.ca, or by calling the office. Please complete registration by the Friday before.
- **SELF SCREEN:** Please be sure to perform the self-screening during registration for any symptoms related to COVID-19. Please stay home if you are unwell.
- **ARRIVAL:** People can begin to arrive at Meadowlands 30 minutes (10:00am) prior to the service time of 10:30am. You will be greeted by “hosts”/ushers who will offer hand sanitizer, a mask, and gloves at the Check-In Desk. They will record your name and contact information if you have not already registered (pre-registration will allow for smoother flow of people into the sanctuary), and confirm that you have completed the self-screening. Once check-in is complete, you will then be escorted to a suitable location for seating. We ask for your understanding and patience with respect to seating arrangements over the next few weeks. In addition to the mask, please ensure you always follow the 2-meter/6-ft. physical distancing rule.
- **MASKS:** *All people are required by law to wear a mask/face covering while attending a worship service.* The only exceptions to this are children under 2 years of age, or those with documented respiratory or other medical issues for whom it would be problematic to wear a mask. <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/face-coverings-and-masks-by-law>
- **SEATING:** To maintain a minimum of 2-meters between members of different households, every other pew will be blocked off and seating areas will be clearly marked. **Hosts/Ushers will direct you to specific seats in the sanctuary.** A minimum of 2-meters must be maintained between each household in the pews. We will continue to reserve seating for those with physical challenges and/or mobility issues. As stated previously we are permitted capacity if we can ensure 2-meter physical distancing. With just over a 330-person seating capacity in

our sanctuary, we will limit our seating to 120 people. This number may change as we continue to monitor our seating capacity.

- **NO REFRESHMENTS:** We will not provide refreshments before and after the service at this time.
- **WASHROOMS:** The two wheelchair washrooms on each side of the sanctuary will be made available. Only one person will be permitted in the washroom unless an individual requires assistance. Please try to use the washroom before entering the Sanctuary.
- **CLEANING:** The building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by July 23 to meet all public health regulations, and will continue to be cleaned before and after each gathering.
- **SINGING:** We are permitted to have congregational singing with masks on. YAY!
- **INFORMATION:** There will be information posted on the walls as you enter the building with guidelines pertaining to safe practice during COVID-19.
- **PHYSICAL CONTACT:** We encourage you to greet each other with a friendly wave or smile! You will always be asked to maintain appropriate physical distancing (2-meters or more). We have eliminated the intentional passing of objects such as the offering plates, bulletins, etc. from the service. Opportunity to give your tithes and offerings will be at the back of the church during your exit. The debit machine will also be available.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday school will not be running in-person for now, however we will continue to send out our online curriculum each week. There will be Activity Kits available at the Check-In desk for children who attend in-person worship.

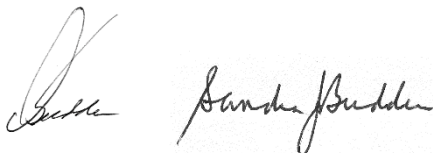
At the end of the service, you will be dismissed in an orderly fashion by our Hosts/Ushers. Please be patient to allow people to maintain the proper physical distancing. When exiting, please move directly through the lobby and outside the building and move clear of the entrances. *Please do not stop or gather in the lobby.*

Please know that these guidelines and congregational gathering plans may be superseded at any time by The Salvation Army or by the Ontario Ministry of Health

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and cooperation as we begin this journey of gathering once again. We truly look forward to meeting with you in the weeks ahead. Whether you join us at the church or continue to worship from home in the coming weeks, our priority remains the same: *to praise and glorify our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!* There is no pressure for anyone to return to in person worship. If, for whatever reason you are unable to attend, we encourage you to avail of the worship service through our online mediums – Facebook and YouTube (search *the Salvation Army Meadowlands Community Church*).

If you have concerns or questions do not hesitate to contact us via email.

In Christ's Service,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and appears to be 'Owen'. The second signature is on the right and is more legible, appearing to be 'Sandra Budden'.

Majors Owen & Sandra Budden (Pastors)

Owen.budden@salvationarmy.ca; Sandra.budden@salvationarmy.ca