

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU TO READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU
GATHER FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE AT HARRISENA COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

It will be good to see you!

Thank you to all the volunteers who make in-person worship possible during this pandemic. If you are willing to volunteer, contact the church office at harrisenachurch@gmail.com.

Whatever the Church does in its gatherings and other ministries expresses our understanding of who God is, what it means to be disciples of Jesus, and how the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses

to what God intends for the world. In times of crisis, when we must address new and challenging practical concerns, our basic theological convictions still apply: love of God and neighbor; regard for

human bodies and fellowship; worship and sacraments; inclusive hospitality that welcomes all and avoids stigmatizing others; and the beauty of God, the world, and human creativity.

LOVE

Jesus taught that love of God and love of every neighbor are two inseparable aspects of one great commandment for the people of God (Matthew 22:35–40). Our love for God and neighbor is a

response to God's love for the world revealed in Jesus (John 3:16). Love motivates everything we do as disciples of Jesus Christ, including how we worship and fellowship with one another.

Especially during times of crisis, faithful Christian worship expresses the fullness of the gospel, both what it requires (love of God, self, neighbor, and the world) and what it releases (love, joy, peace, forgiveness, and deliverance in all forms). Love is the ground of all of our work in this project, and of all of the work God calls each congregation and ministry to undertake.

During this pandemic, love of neighbor requires careful planning. Because we love God, we want to offer worship that brings our very best. Because we love our neighbors, we want to do everything we

can to make sure we bring no harm to anyone when we gather.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE: What to expect at Harrisena

HOLY COMMUNION

At HCC we will share in this sacrament in community asking each individual and/or family to bring their own communion cup and bread.

Many of us are longing to share Holy Communion in the fellowship of our congregations. Holy Communion can be resumed in ways that honor both distance and intimacy. It may be possible to give and receive the bread, even if not always the cup, and if not huddled at a rail, then in other ways. Widely-held Christian tradition affirms that when we cannot receive both bread and cup, or when physical impairment means we cannot receive either, the grace of the sacrament is still fully available. Whenever the sacrament is offered to us and the intention to receive is present, so is God's grace.

SINGING

At HCC we will reflect on the lyrics and the meaning of the lyrics to the songs. We will not open our mouths to sing, but we will allow the words to penetrate our hearts.

According to the studies of aerosols by Dr. Donald Milton MD, Professor of medicine University of Maryland, it is very unsafe to sing in an enclosed area. The National Association of Teachers of Singing has presented several video platforms of scientific information from doctors.

Singing through a mask is difficult plus you run the risk of leakage of aerosols out the sides. Too many people have ill-fitting masks. Whispering is even a worse idea.

Truthfully the best is to keep your mouth closed. The community spread you hear of is mostly transmission of aerosols.

Proper ventilation is of most importance. A ceiling fan does nothing. You want to achieve a vacuum. Something close to negative pressure.

FELLOWSHIP

At HCC we will fellowship with each other with smiles that can be seen with our eyes, felt in our hearts, known in our souls. Please do not convene in the sanctuary or the Ed. Building. Feel free to greet friends in the parking lot, keeping the proper distance.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE SANCTUARY AND EDUCATION BUILDING

During the Prelude move carefully into the sanctuary, keeping at least 6 feet distance from the person in front of and behind you. After the Benediction and during the Postlude, move carefully out of the sanctuary, keeping at least 6 feet distance from the person in front of and behind you.

During the pandemic, public health guidelines ask everyone to:

- Stay home when you are ill or especially vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more at all times as you enter, worship, and depart.
- Limit the size of gatherings according to guidance provided by denominational, state, or local authorities. We will begin with 15 people in the sanctuary. Seating and distancing will be marked.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces.
- Use face coverings at all times while in public, except those under 2 years old, those with breathing difficulties, or those who are not able to remove a face covering on their own.
- Reduce exposure time in worship and fellowship gatherings.
- Limit physical touching to what Christian ritual requires, such as the laying on of hands at baptism.

As long as we follow these individual hygiene requirements, we will be able to continue to maintain social gatherings with a decreased the level of possible infection.

PREPARING THE BUILDING

Responsible planning will aim to ensure that all who come to worship gatherings are as safe as possible, with as few exposures to infection as possible.

BENCHMARKS FOR RESUMING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Beginning Criteria A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

Level 1 A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

Level 2 A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

Level 3 An ongoing downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19

Harrisena Community Church Sanctuary has been unoccupied for the last 7 days. Because of this, it will only need your normal routine cleaning to reopen the area. This is because the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been shown to survive on surfaces longer than this time. There are many public health considerations, not just COVID-19 related, when reopening public buildings and spaces that have been closed for extended periods. For example, take measures to ensure the safety of your building water system. It is not necessary to clean ventilation systems, other than routine maintenance, as part of reducing risk of coronaviruses. Good ventilation in spaces being used is recommended.

Examples of frequently touched surfaces and objects that will need proper and routine disinfection following reopening are:

• tables, • doorknobs, • light switches, • countertops, • handles, • chairs/pews • desks, • phones, • keyboards, • toilets, • faucets and sinks, • touch screens, and • ATM machines.

The church sanctuary and Ed. building will have different surfaces and objects that are frequently touched by multiple people. Appropriately disinfect these surfaces and objects. All frequently used surfaces must be disinfected.

SCREENING (Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the church facility. Normal range of temperature is from 97°F (36.1°C) to 98.6°F (37°C).

Ask staff and members the following questions to screen for illness:

1. Have you had a cough or sore throat?
2. Have you had a fever or do you feel feverish?
3. Do you have shortness of breath?
4. Do you have a loss of taste or smell?
5. Have you been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms within the past 14 days?
6. Are you living with anyone who is sick or quarantined?
7. Have you been out of state in the last 14 days?

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Higher risk staff and members may include:

- ✓ Individuals over 65 years of age.
- ✓ People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People with hypertension
- People who are immunocompromised:
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

CHECKLIST FOR BASIC SAFETY IN THE HARRISENA CHURCH SANCTUARY AND/OR THE EDUCATION BUILDING and on HCC grounds:

Thoroughly disinfect all high-touch surfaces (pews, tables, chairs, pulpit, worship implements, door handles, light switches, microphones, keyboards, etc.) using EPA approved disinfectants prior to and after any worship service or meetings occurring in indoor church facilities.

- The CDC offers these guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf.
- Obtain and stock sufficient supplies of needed disinfectants for any activities that will be permitted indoors on church premises.
- Maintain stock constantly until the threat of COVID-19 is eliminated.
- As needed, adjust the spaces where worship leaders and musicians do their work so that they are sufficiently physically distanced from the worshipping congregation and from one another.
- Remove items used by a number of people or that are not easily disinfected, such as offering plates and hymnals. Identify where seats are available.
- Plan to start seating at least 16 feet away from where worship leaders are likely to be since they may sometimes need to use louder voices.
- All available seating for the congregation should provide for at least 6 feet in all directions between co-sheltering households.

In many cases, this will mean that at most 25% of available seating capacity can be used until state or local health officials advise it is safe for physical distancing to be somewhat relaxed.

Provide seating for families that allows children more space for movement.

POST SIGNS to inform or direct worshipers and guests:

 **To maintain physical distancing**

 **To wear cloth face coverings**

 **About entrances and exits**

 **About COVID-19 symptoms**

 **How to wash and disinfect hands**

 **To maintain physical distancing in restrooms**

The CDC provides signage and templates to create your own: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc)

Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc Place mark(er)s on the ground outdoors in front of all entry and exit doors at 6-foot intervals to ensure distancing is maintained between individuals and co-sheltering household groups on entry and exit.

Do the same for indoor traffic areas. This includes pathways to restrooms if restrooms can be made available safely.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE SANCTUARY AND EDUCATION BUILDING

We will use a separate entrance and exit to avoid people entering and exiting the same doorway at the same time in the HCC sanctuary and structured exit and entrance in the Ed. Building.

Harrisena will provide **NO TOUCH** sanitizing stations at the entrance and exit of each building with at least 60% alcohol content, along with trash cans at all points of entry, at all restrooms (if restrooms will be made available), and within reach of seating areas in case anyone should cough or sneeze or otherwise need additional disinfecting during the service.

For information on handwashing and the proper use of hand sanitizer, see <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>