

# **Hebron United Methodist Church**

## **ReTurn to Church Plan**



Based on Guidelines from:  
The Northern Illinois Conference, IDPH, and the CDC

“*Until we have adequate levels of high-quality testing, we have to assume that everyone is an asymptomatic carrier... This may seem extreme, but given the case fatality rate (CFR) AND the high percentage of serious cases with long-term health impacts, the risk of even one preventable infection is unacceptable. Our First General Rule is “Do No Harm.”*”

--“Forming a Health Team/Building Policies and Protocol” by the UMC NIC

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Hebron United Methodist Church has remained committed to its mission: ***Creating pathways to love and serve God’s people.*** Whether we meet in-person or virtually, **We will be God’s inclusive love!**

# ReTurn to Church Phases for HUMC

- ▶ Phase 1: Virtual service, small groups, Sunday School, and meetings. Church remains closed to all but essential business.
- ▶ Phase 2: Virtual service, small groups, Sunday School, and meetings. Church remains closed to all but essential business.
- ▶ Phase 3: Some in-person activities (including council meetings, pastoral care, etc.) limited to < 10 people. Safety protocol must be followed. Outdoor worship activities?

# ReTurn to Church Phases for HUMC

- ▶ Phase 4: In-person worship and other in-person activities resume with restrictions and special procedures. Capacity limited to 50, and indoor fellowship before and after services are restricted
- ▶ Phase 5: Once the state of Illinois has moved to Phase 5, the health team will discuss the return of traditional elements and style of worship (singing, passed offering plate, etc.). Will also discuss and create plan for resuming traditional modes of fellowship indoors...i.e. potlucks, parties, etc.

# Safety Actions

## Screening and contact tracing:

- ▶ For all gatherings, contact tracing will be implemented. HUMC will utilize greeters during worship to conduct screening procedures and sign-in at the entry of the church building.
- ▶ Upon Entry:
  - ▶ Provide mask if attendee doesn't have one. Attendee will use hand sanitizer offered by greeter, while other greeter adds individual to contact list.
  - ▶ Screen attendee for symptoms, temp check?

# Safety Actions

## Face Coverings:

- ▶ Masks (cloth or disposable) will be **required** during indoor (and outdoor?) activities. HUMC will have disposable face masks available.

*Note: Masks should not be placed on children less than 2 years old, anyone who is having trouble breathing (or is unconscious), and anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance.*

# Safety Actions

## Social distancing in Sanctuary:

- ▶ It is important to keep 6ft from other individuals in order to prevent transmission. People within the same household may sit in closer quarters.
- ▶ Hebron United Methodist Church will also embrace new ways to greet each other without hugs, handshakes, etc. No hugging, handshaking, or other forms of physical greeting is permitted between households.

# Safety Actions

## Traffic flow and use of other common areas:

- ▶ Greeters/Ushers will help control flow of traffic entering and exiting on the North side of the fellowship hall. Kitchen, Wesley room, and Pastor's office will not be accessible during Worship service.

## Restrooms:

- ▶ Wipes will be offered to exist safely and wipe down doorknobs . Guests will be asked to sanitize upon entering and exiting the bathroom. Maintain social distancing while waiting for the restrooms.



# Safety Actions

## Shared worship materials and other items:

- ▶ “Rent” out hymnals and bibles? Have cubbies? Increase use of TV monitor to limit need for bulletins. Any bulletins must be disposed of by each individual congregant.

## Fellowship and Food service:

- ▶ No food service. Fellowship and conversation must be restricted indoors, and conducted outdoors only.

## Cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation:

- ▶ Greeters will wipe down and disinfect high-touch surfaces such as door knobs, pews. Custodian will resume usual weekly cleaning schedule once in-person activities resume.

# What will in-person activities actually look like??

## Worship (music, liturgy, offering, communion)

- ▶ No singing, no shared hymnals/Bibles, or offering plate. We would utilize DIY touchless communion and fixed offering container by the North exit. We will use TV monitor screen and other tools to facilitate engagement, perhaps have pre-recorded music? Nursery would remain closed at this time.
- ▶ Will stream service to provide remote option.

## Small Group/Education:

- ▶ Phase 3: Small group/education would take place virtually utilizing creative solutions as drop-off/pick-up for participants to gather supplies.
- ▶ Phase 4: Resume small groups is at the discretion of each leader.

## Maintaining communication with Congregation:

- ▶ We will utilize signage, verbal communication, our website and social media platforms to effectively communicate our new policies.
- ▶ The situation remains fluid, this committee (in collaboration with the church council and NOW leaders) must frequently reassess our policies.
- ▶ If there is a confirmed case...
  - ▶ work with the McHenry County Department of Health to follow established protocol to determine if a shutdown our facilities is warranted.
  - ▶ Participate in contact tracing as necessary

# Questions/Feedback

- ▶ Question for Council members:

- ▶ What is your comfort level on reopening our building? Would you be comfortable attending an in-person worship services?
- ▶ When?

Building Trustees: inspect before reopen?

# Resources/More information

- ▶ Northern Illinois Conference ReTurn Team Plan:

<https://www.umcnic.org/returnteam>

- ▶ NIC Building policies and protocols:

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/return%20team/Building%20Policies%20and%20Protocols.docx.pdf>

- ▶ IDPH Guidelines for Places of Worship:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance>

- ▶ CDC “Considerations for Communities of Faith”:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

### Contact Tracing Sign in Sheet

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Host: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print)	Contact Information (phone/email/cell)	Time In /Out
1. _____	_____	____
2. _____	_____	____
3. _____	_____	____
4. _____	_____	____
5. _____	_____	____
6. _____	_____	____
7. _____	_____	____
8. _____	_____	____
9. _____	_____	____

In Phase 1-3, ^ the line above = maximum occupancy with 1 host

Name (Please Print)	Contact Information (phone/email/cell)	Time In /Out
10 _____	_____	____
11 _____	_____	____
12 _____	_____	____
13 _____	_____	____
14 _____	_____	____
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Name (Please Print)	Contact Information (phone/email/cell)	Time In /Out
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49 _____	_____	____

# THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE RETURNING TO CHURCH

LET'S HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

**03**

At this time, there will be no live singing during indoor services.

**01**

Greeters will "check-in" each attendee to church, screening for symptoms and gathering contact information.

**04**

Bibles and Hymnals will not be available in pews. If you would like to "check out" a Bible and/or Hymnal, you will be responsible for taking the items with you after the service.

**02**

Masks are REQUIRED for all visitors over the age of 2. Mask are available at the entry, please dispose of them or take them with you after church.

**05**

In addition to our regular cleaning, we will sanitize high-touch areas after each service.

## Keep Our Church Safe!

If you are experiencing symptoms, please **DO NOT ENTER**.

In the event that you are diagnosed as positive for COVID-19, please notify the church Health Team ASAP. You can call Kate at 815-529-8043 or Dave at \_\_\_\_\_

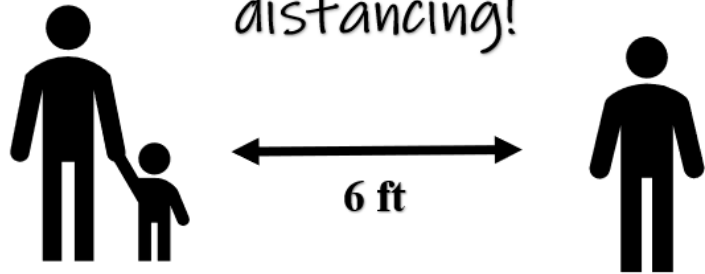
- The kitchen, Wesley Room, and Pastor's office are currently CLOSED, please stay away from these areas.
- At this time, restrooms are OPEN. If restrooms are occupied, please wait for an available restroom while maintaining 6ft of social distance
- In addition to our regular cleaning, greeters sanitize high-touch areas after each service.

When entering the church:

- Masks are required for all visitors over the age of 2. Mask are available at the entry, please dispose of them or take them with you after church
- Please sanitize your hands as you enter and exit the church.
- Please sign-in with a greeter so we can communicate with you in the case that contact-tracing is needed.
- Follow the guidance of the greeters as you take your seat. Please remain in your seat throughout the service. Greeters will also facilitate exit after church to ensure that social distancing is maintained.

Please maintain social distancing guidelines at all times!

Thank you for social  
distancing!



Keep Our Church Safe!

Keep Our Church Safe!



**Face masks required before entering!**



Hands that look clean can still have icky germs!

**1 Wet**

**2 Get Soap**

**3 Scrub**

**4 Rinse**

**5 Dry**

# Wash YOUR HANDS!

This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, CDC, and Dupont. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CLEAN HANDS KEEP YOU HEALTHY.**

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least **20 SECONDS.**

**LIFE IS BETTER WITH CLEAN HANDS**

[www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing)

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# Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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## Feeling Sick?

Stay home when you are sick!

If you feel unwell or have the following symptoms please leave the building and contact your health care provider. Then follow-up with your supervisor.

**DO NOT ENTER** if you have:



FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



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[cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS](https://cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS)

# Face Covering Do's and Don'ts:

## DO:



- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

## DON'T:

- ✗ Use if under two years old
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for healthcare workers



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)