

Harrow Mennonite Church resumes worship services

June 2020

We will ease our way back into gathering for worship through the next two months, with worship services to be held twice each month: **July 5 & 19 and August 2 & 16**. We hope to be able to gather outdoors, on the grass behind the church, weather permitting. However, if the weather is not suitable, we will be in the sanctuary. Each of these scenarios has slightly different guidelines and protocols to ensure everyone's safety, so please read this document carefully.

On each Sunday, a record will be kept of attendees, to facilitate contact tracing for the Health Unit.

On each Sunday, as you arrive, you will be asked specific questions about your health and well-being.

You are expected to wear a facemask, unless you have a medical reason why you can't. If possible, bring your own mask, but we will have some available at the church, as well.

If the service is outdoors:

Do not enter the building on arrival, but proceed directly to the grassy area at the back of the church. Before you find a spot to sit, please use the hand sanitizer provided on the table, leave your offering in the receptacle provided (there will be no collection during the service) and take a bulletin. (Do not crowd around the table, but maintain a distance of 2 metres, while you wait your turn)

You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs. Spots will be designated on the grass for each person, in order to maintain the appropriate distance. Chairs from inside the church can be supplied to those who need one.

If you need to use the washroom, enter through the door open into the sanctuary. Only one person is allowed in the washroom at a time. Please follow the hand-washing instructions posted. Disinfectant will be available if you wish to disinfect touched surfaces before and/or after using the facilities.

At the end of the service, please remember to remain 2 metres apart as you socialize outside.

If the service is indoors:

Please enter by the front door (the side door will be locked) and use the hand sanitizer provided (or wash your hands in the washroom, if you prefer – see washroom use guidelines above).

There will be a table inside the sanctuary doors with an offering plate for your offerings. The bulletins will also be available there - please take one.

Each person has been assigned a specific spot to sit. An usher will help you find your spot on the first Sunday, and you should return to that same spot on subsequent Sundays. (People who live together can sit together)

When the service is over, we will exit the sanctuary one pew at a time, starting at the back, in order to maintain the proper physical distance. Please exit the church immediately, and if you wish to socialize, you may do so on the front lawn. (our foyer isn't large enough to ensure proper distancing)

Guidelines for Greeters

If we are meeting outdoors:

Please station yourself close to the table and greet each person as they arrive, asking others to wait in line, distanced.

Shaking hands or hugging are not allowed – a simple raised hand and warm words of welcome will have to do during this time of COVID.

Each person must wear a mask. If they do not have one, offer one of the cloth or disposable masks available

Ask if they have read the list of symptoms related to COVID-19 which were sent or delivered to them earlier. (If not, ask them to read the list on the clipboard)

Ask them to confirm that they do not have any of the symptoms.

Please record their name on the clipboard, and direct them to use the hand sanitizer, leave their offering in the container, take a bulletin and go directly to one of the spots marked on the grass to set up their chair and wait for the service to begin.

If we are meeting indoors:

Please prop the front door open and station yourself just outside the door. Greet each person as they arrive, asking others to wait in line, distanced.

Shaking hands or hugging are not allowed – a simple raised hand and warm words of welcome will have to do during this time of COVID.

Each person must wear a mask. If they do not have one, offer one of the cloth or disposable masks available

Ask if they have read the list of symptoms related to COVID-19 which were sent or delivered to them earlier. (If not, ask them to read the list posted on the door)

Ask them to confirm that they do not have any of the symptoms.

Please record their name on the clipboard and direct them to use the hand sanitizer on the table just inside the door (or wash their hands). They should proceed directly to the sanctuary and leave their offering in the offering plate just inside the sanctuary doors, take a bulletin and go directly to the spot in the pews that has been assigned to them.

Notes:

Prior to reopening we surveyed the congregation to determine if people were ready and wanting to return, as well as to learn any concerns they would want addressed. This also gave us an opportunity to give people a heads up about some of the changes that would be necessary--such as no singing.

We are not singing. To meet the request for music we have two songs in the service. These are usually instrumental with the lyrics printed for people to read. We are allowed to hum.

The service is shorter than previous to address public health concerns of "prolonged exposure". Between 30-45min.

The church is cleaned and disinfected before and after each service.