

## **Phase Plans for Ministry at North Hills Church during COVID-19 Pandemic**

### **Psalm 33:20-22**

*Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
For our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.*

### **Phase 1: (March 22nd - May 17th, 2020)**

- Live Stream Service Only at 10:45am
- All other in-person events/services suspended

**Phase 2:** Reopening for In-Person Worship (***beginning May 24th, 2020***)  
*with two identical services separated by approximately 45 minutes to allow for time to clean/re-organize.*

*1st Service: 9:00am*

*2nd Service: 10:45am {This Service will also be LiveStreamed}*

All other in-person events/services remains suspended.

### **The Congregation is encouraged to adopt & follow these guidelines:**

- If you are sick, are experiencing symptoms of any kind, or have experienced symptoms of any kind in the past 14 days, we encourage you to stay home and view our worship service online through Facebook or at the North Hills Church website.
  - Screen yourself before attending and not attend if answering in the affirmative:
    - *Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?*
    - *Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?*
    - *Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?*
    - *Have you experienced new loss of taste or smell?*
    - *Have you experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?*
- If you suspect that you have been exposed to COVID-19, have developed symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have been diagnosed: you commit to notifying Church Leadership as soon as possible. Out of love for one another and for our neighbors, we want to mitigate as much as possible in potential spread of COVID-19.
- Anyone in a high-risk category is highly encouraged to continue to worship at home via livestream until a later phase.
- Continue to wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, and refrain from touching your face. Please use the hand sanitizer stations in the Foyer. Wash hands before coming to Church and immediately upon returning home from Church.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing as much as possible.
- Refrain from handshakes, hugs and other close contact at church. ***Do smile & wave!***
- Face masks are welcomed and strongly encouraged.
- **Pray** for the Lord's protection of our flock and our community.

### **In Preparation for Worship, We Have Already:**

- Done a deep clean of the entire church.
- Removed the Hymnals, P&W Books, and Pew Bibles from the Chairs.
- Kept a “Sanitizer Station” in the Foyer, as well as placed other Hand Sanitizers on the table and counter by the Office.

### **In the Foyer:**

- The congregation is asked to not congregate any longer than necessary in the Foyer.
- When possible, the front doors will be propped open or greeters will open them, limiting the amount of times the doors need to be opened. If propped open, the front doors will be closed five minutes after the start of worship at 9:05am & 10:50am.
- The doors into the Sanctuary will always remain open.
- Bulletins will be spread out on the tall Table to the immediate right upon entering the Foyer for the Congregation to pick up upon as you head into Sanctuary (Greeters will not physically distribute the Bulletins during this Phase).
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected between the two services.

### **In the Church:**

- Try to limit what you touch while in the building.
- Unless absolutely necessary, we are asking the Congregation and visitors to refrain from going beyond the Foyer Area/Sanctuary.
- As much as possible refrain from using the bathrooms, unless in the case of an emergency. The Green Room bathroom & sink will be available for use and cleaned in between services.
- All Classrooms will remain closed and locked on Sundays.
- The Kitchen will be “closed” (e.g. no snacks or coffee).
- Nursery will not be provided during this Phase. That said, we do want any and all children to attend with their family!

### **In the Sanctuary:**

- We will continue to utilize a slightly shorter worship service format.
- We will not pass the Offering Plates or have a separate Offertory. The Offering Plates will be located on the back table in the Sanctuary to use before or after the Service. Online Giving will continue to be an option for the Congregation - with a new system established by the end of May.
- All music will be printed in the bulletins so that hymnals & music binders will not need to be handled.
- Leave at least two chairs between you and anyone that is unrelated to you. Don't forget that waving and smiling (even from behind a mask) is encouraged!
- Alternating rows will be blocked off - please do not sit in a blocked off row. In the second service, the rows not used will be opened and those used in the first service will be blocked off. As a result, only one person will ever be in the chairs that are used on a given Sunday.

### **Following the Service:**

- The congregation is asked to exit the Church, starting with the rows closest to the doors, as quickly as possible. When possible, the congregation is encouraged to hold “socially distant” conversations outside - particularly in the parking lot.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned using Lysol wipes or similar product effective in killing the coronavirus.
- Metals surfaces on the chairs in the Sanctuary will be cleaned with Betco (an EPA approved product for disinfecting) following the second service.

### **Additional Details:**

- We will ask the congregation (and visitors) to sign up to attend one of the worship services, so that we can manage attendance and provide room for anyone who forgets or fails to sign up. This will be done via a simple form on our website. The Session may ask you to consider attending a different service if it appears we may have too many people to maintain proper distance while engaged in Worship.
- We will sing, but we will not utilize any wind instruments and we will ask you to sing a slightly lower volume than you might normally. In other words, sing, but don't project.
- A process for Communion will be determined soon, but will not be implemented until a later date.

### **“Volunteer” Needs During Phase 2 from Congregation:**

#### **Monthly “Sunday Attendant” For Each Service:**

##### *Responsibilities:*

- Assist with opening/closing of front doors before & after service, when feasible and safe.
- Warmly welcome members & visitors and be available to answer any questions
- Point out Bulletins on the Table (from a safe distance)
- Assist with cleaning following the service at which they are serving.

**Phase 3:** Complete Reopening of the Church and All Activities with the potential return of One Sunday AM Service **(Date TBD)**

### **Useful Links:**

Weekly Worship Registration:

<https://northhillschurch.net/IN-PERSON-WORSHIP.htm>

Online Giving: <https://northhillschurch.net/How-to-Give.htm>