

Outdoor Worship at Menno during COVID

Updated July 9, 2020

We have been all waiting for the opportunity to gather again as a church family. But getting back to the familiar cannot be getting back to the way things were. Here is how our gathering will need to work. ***Please check these rules regularly as we have to remain flexible to what works and what doesn't.*** Consider checking every week for changes. This will always be a work in progress.

Before you leave the house:

- **Evaluate how you are feeling.** If you are not feeling well, please do not come. Consider taking your temperature and staying home if you have a fever. If you have a suspected contact elsewhere in the week, stay home. There is no virtue in toughing it out right now.
- **When in doubt, stay home** The best thing you can do for yourself and your brothers and sisters is to err on the side of caution. No one is to be judged for not coming to church, especially now. *A decision to stay home is a decision of love for the body.*
- **If you can't or are not ready to attend:** Online worship options will remain available indefinitely. See [Mennomennonite.org/online-worship](https://mennomennonite.org/online-worship) for the present arrangements.
- **Check your email, the Menno website & Facebook or call the church for a voicemail after 8 AM Sunday.** This situation is very fluid with regard to COVID, its regulations, and weather. A final go/no go decision will need to wait for the last minute. *If there are no messages, assume that we will proceed.* Any cancellation will be posted at all of these locations. The website will feature information on the home page (mennomennonite.org). Any cancellations will move content to online only.

What to bring

- **A mask, one for everyone in your group.** We have a limited number of disposable masks on hand for the church, but those should be for emergency use. We will be wearing masks as we are gathered, and requiring them indoors.
- **Your own seating:** Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, whatever. This will allow us to accommodate people without the massive workload of setup, sanitizing, and tear down of chairs. Chairs will be available for guests on a limited basis.
- **Your own coffee** if you want it. Coffee will not be served.
- **A FM receiver with earphones** if you would like to use direct audio. A FM transmitter will broadcast the audio locally. This will also allow you to remain in your vehicle if you wish. The frequency will be published on Sunday.
- **Your sense of adventure and flexibility.**

Rules for interaction

- **Start with the assumption that people do NOT wish physical contact.** Consider a hand over your heart as a sign of greeting and best wishes. Observe general distancing at all times.
- **Shake hands and initiate contact only with express permission. Ask first.** If no, remember it's not personal.
- **Masks need to stay on.**
- **Visiting should be minimized and outside only.**

As you arrive

- **Check in with the greeter.** They will be recording names and phone numbers (if not on file with the church) for contact tracing. These logs will be retained for 3 months for possible notification, and then destroyed.
- **Pick up an order of service/music**
- **Pick your spot** where you want to sit. Try to keep 10 or so feet between family groups. Please keep this separation as much as possible.
- Keep 20 feet away from the pulpit (it could be a splash zone).

In worship

- **Keep your masks on**
- **Singing should only happen with masks in place.**
- **The Worship leader may not wear a mask** only because reading lips is part of hearing-- hence the larger distances. When not leading, the mask goes back on.
- **Offerings will be collected in a basket without passing** instructions given on site.
- **Sharing will** be from 2 standing microphones. If you would like to share, come to the microphone. Do not handle the microphone, but speak clearly and closely into the microphone.

Going inside

- **Enter only by the main doors (the doors into the lobby).**
- **Masks are required**
- **Access will only be to the washrooms and the mailboxes.** We want to control access to the other spaces to limit the cleaning liabilities. *If the door is closed/blocked, please do not enter.* If you do go into another space than what is open, please grab a wipe and clean up after yourself.
- **Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available both inside and outside the doors.**
- If there are a number of people inside, wait until things clear out a bit. Do not linger inside.

Washrooms

- **Enter using the door from the lobby**
- **Use a paper towel (available outside the entry door) to handle the door pulls and touch surfaces in the bathroom**
- **Exit the bathroom using the fellowship hall doors** to allow for minimal crossing traffic along the way, returning to the lobby by the hallway. Consider using the door opener button, and throw away the paper towel on your way out.
- The bathroom touch areas will be sanitized immediately prior to and following the service.

After the Service

- **If you develop symptoms of COVID within 14 days of a service, please inform the church.** If a COVID test of someone at a service comes back positive within 14 days of a service, those in attendance should be notified immediately. We will comply with all requests from public health authorities for contact tracing.