



Heritage Presbyterian Church

Love Grows Here

Loving Through Christ, Becoming Disciples, Serving All

Covenant of Care

After washing their feet in an act of humble service, Jesus told his disciples “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-45). As those who seek to follow Christ’s example, we believe we are called to engage in relationships that are marked by love. Our church vision and mission statement even reads “Love Grows Here.”

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, church leaders have prayerfully considered what it looks like to live in love as a congregation. Since March 2020, this has taken form in the prioritization of service with a significant increase in our food pantry efforts, the development of virtual opportunities for worship, education, and fellowship, and increased precautions for lower risk in-person activities. We believe this is the best way we can live into Christ’s call to love one another. As we anticipate what community life will look like in the future, we believe the Spirit calls us to continue to live in love, adopting new rituals and routines that model the best care we can provide to each other with particular attention to those who are the most vulnerable in our midst (Jesus had a lot of things to say about that, too). We will continue to learn more about best practices and adjust our response accordingly, but invite you to review this plan as one way to prepare to participate in our community life.

In scripture, the promises that bind a community of faith together are wrapped in the relationship we have with God. Because of this, we refer to them as “covenant” relationships. In all things, we trust that God is guiding us to make wise decisions and is with us. It is God who said “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). We join together as those who have been claimed in love by a God of grace, committing to a covenant of care as we seek to best reflect that love to each other as we follow Christ together in community.

A Phased Approach

Decisions relating to how and when we gather in-person are a dynamic process, responsive to what is happening in our immediate communities, attentive to guidance from medical professionals and governmental agencies along with our own awareness of the needs of our community. A Worship Task Force led this effort beginning in April 2020 and presented a multi-phase approach that other committees have followed in turn to make a plan for deliberate and measured changes over time.

- **Phase I – Virtual Only.** All church activities will be online, with the exception of essential office functions, worship recording, and approved mission activity with increased precautions.
- **Phase II – Limited In-Person.** Most activities continue as in Phase I. Some small group activities permitted on a case-by-case basis with increased precautions. In addition to virtual worship, a small in-person live service will be offered in the Sanctuary by reservation.
- **Phase III – Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing.** Many activities continue as in Phase II. Additional small group activities permitted with increased precautions. Worship service will be livestreamed from the Sanctuary with a limited number of in-person participants with precautions.
- **Phase IV – “New Normal” In-Person.** Most church activities permitted, following best practices for cleaning and safety. Virtual access to worship and Sunday School will continue alongside in-person gatherings. This phase is still in development as we consider a “new normal.”



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Covenant of Care Summary¹

	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
General	Primarily virtual, with in-person limited to essential business, worship recording, and mission activities with precautions.	Continued virtual with small number (<25) in-person activities with precautions.	Expanded in-person activities with precautions, group size based on social distancing capacity.	In-person activities following best practices for numbers and precautions, with hybrid virtual options when possible.
Worship	Hosted Virtual Service on YouTube and Facebook, 10 am later viewing available Full transcripts of service mailed to those without access Communion via Zoom monthly.	Hosted Virtual Service as in Phase I, later viewing available. Live service in the Sanctuary with spoken liturgy and sermon, and pre-recorded vocal music. (up to 18 households)	Livestreamed via YouTube, with later viewing available In-person service in Sanctuary with precautions and social distancing (up to 26 households).	Livestreamed via YouTube, with later viewing available In-person worship in the Sanctuary with limited precautions that fit the best practices for a “new normal.”
Music²	Staff or home-recorded music, use of archived pre-recorded pieces.	Live non-wind instrumental music Pre-recorded vocals of small ensembles.	Live instrumental music. Vocal music by worship leaders or small ensembles, along with some pre-recorded vocals	TBD based on recommendations from national music associations.
Nurture	Virtual learning using Zoom and/or e-mailed at-home resources.	Virtual learning as in Phase I. Some small group gatherings of low-risk groups.	Hybrid virtual and in-person learning Some small group gatherings with precautions.	Increased in-person group gatherings, continuing to offer hybrid virtual options whenever possible.
Mission <i>Food Pantry Santa's Caravan Blood Drive Clothing Closet Kevin's Garden</i>	Emergency services as approved by Session with < 10 volunteers and additional precautions	Limited services as approved with <25 volunteers following volunteer guidelines.	Limited services as approved with volunteer guidelines and precautions.	TBD based on community need
Facilities Use	Essential repairs and maintenance only.	Small group use considered on a case-by-case basis	Begin to allow return of groups with precautions.	TBD. Return of groups with “new normal” protocols.
Office	Essential business only; staff may work remotely as needed.	Visitors by appointment only; staff may work remotely as needed.	Visitors encouraged to call ahead; increased availability. Flexibility for staff.	Resume regular office hours. Other guidelines TBD.

All Volunteers must follow the HPC COVID-19 Volunteer Guidelines (updated 12/14/2020) and any additional guidelines established by leaders of activities.

All activities will follow the best practices for precautions as appropriate following CDC guidance.

¹ Additional supporting resources include: <https://www.wichurches.org/2021/04/16/bearing-with-one-another-in-love/>; <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>

² Guidance from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, including additional resources related to music, can be found at https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/pam-covid-052120.pdf



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Frequently Asked Questions

What sources were used to determine these guidelines?

- Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Georgia Department of Public Health - <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>
- PCUSA denominational resources - <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>
- Wisconsin Council of Churches <https://www.wichurches.org/2021/04/16/bearing-with-one-another-in-love/>
<https://www.wichurches.org/2021/05/13/love-builds-up-a-response-to-mays-cdc-masking-update/>

Who is responsible for making decisions about these phases?

As the governing body of the church, the Session is responsible for making the final decisions regarding church activities and outside events held on our campus. As a part of this work, the Session may equip and give permission for committees or small groups to make decisions related to a particular ministry area.

How will we know which phase we are in?

We will communicate regularly through the church website and Facebook, monthly e-newsletters (mailed via USPS to those without e-mail). Church Staff will provide guidance for groups based on this Covenant of Care and Session decision. Activity leaders will communicate additional details with volunteers and participants.

What happens if someone who attends an event on our campus tests positive for COVID-19?

All campus visitors are asked to notify the church office or activity leaders if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Leaders will respond following the COVID-19 Exposure Response Plan, updated 12/14/2020. Our staff will follow the Staff Exposure Response Plan (updated 2/22/2021) for work activities and coverage.

What is meant by “household” or “household unit”?

This term is used to recognize a group of individuals who are regularly engaged in contact equivalent of that of living in the same household, which may extend by mutual agreement to extended family members and friends.

What about singing?

Studies referenced by professional music and choral associations have shown that activities like congregational singing produce aerosols which travel a greater distance and remain airborne for longer, posing a higher risk of transmission. Our plan includes lower risk singing activities, such as congregational singing during outdoor services, continued use of pre-recorded music, and additional distancing indoors for live singing by worship leaders, soloists, and small ensembles. (<https://acda.org/resources-for-choral-professionals-during-a-pandemic/>)

What about vaccinations?

HPC is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for all who wish to join us. We encourage all members of our community to consult with their healthcare providers and when appropriate and available, receive their choice of approved COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and reduce potential exposure or spread. Because this is a personal and private decision, and we know not all members of our community can or will receive a vaccine, our plan does not require anyone to disclose vaccination status, trusting that our community members will adhere to the CDC guidelines that best fit their situation. All activities will be planned to welcome both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, so that all may fully participate in the life of the church.

How are changes made to this plan?

This plan is reviewed monthly and updated as needed by the Session, with input from committees and church leaders. If you have questions or additional ideas, please contact the Church Office, or the Elder or lead volunteer for the event or ministry area. Changes made from the previous revision are indicated by highlight.



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Covenant of Care – Detailed Plans for Worship

Worship (1 of 3)	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
Access				
Virtual (recorded or live stream)	Yes – Facebook and YouTube	Yes – Facebook and YouTube	Yes – Livestream via YouTube	Yes – Livestream via YouTube
Capacity	N/A	25 participants or 18 households not including worship leader households seated in chancel/balcony.	26 households, not including worship leader households seated in chancel/balcony.	TBD
Reservations	N/A	Yes, advanced registration required via online form or through church office with priority given to those without internet or with pastoral needs. Walk-ins accepted up to capacity.	Ushers will facilitate sign-in process for contact tracing and attendance purposes.	TBD based on attendance patterns and distancing needs
Entrance	N/A	One entrance point at Narthex. Door opens 15 minutes before service.	One entrance point at Narthex. Door opens 15 minutes before service.	TBD
Seating	N/A	By household, socially distanced. Refer to Sanctuary diagram – Phase 2	By household, socially distanced. Refer to Sanctuary diagram – Phase 3	TBD
Exit	N/A	All will exit through Narthex.	All will exit through Narthex.	TBD



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Love Grows Here

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Worship (2 of 3)	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
In-Person Precautions				
Health of Attendees	Asymptomatic and no known exposure within last 2 weeks.	Asymptomatic and no known exposure within last 2 weeks.	Asymptomatic and no known exposure within last 2 weeks.	TBD
Face Masks	Whenever possible as appropriate for recording.	Required following CDC guidance Worship leaders may remove masks while leading.	Required following CDC guidance Worship leaders may remove masks while leading.	TBD based on CDC guidance
Wash or Sanitize hands upon arrival	Yes Sanitizer available	Yes, required at welcome station	Yes, required at welcome station	Sanitizer available throughout campus
Social Distancing	Yes	Yes	Yes	TBD
Restrooms	Yes – individual use	Narthex only	Yes	Yes
Music				
Instrumental Music	Pre-recorded by staff, or taken from livestream archives	Live non-wind instruments, or pre-recorded	Live with added precautions and pre-recorded	Live with added precautions and pre-recorded.
Singing	Pre-recorded by staff, or taken from livestream archives	No live <i>indoor</i> singing by congregation. Pre-recorded in small ensembles with precautions.	No live <i>indoor</i> singing by congregation. Hymns/responses may be led live by worship leaders at greater distance, or continue with pre-recorded vocals.	TBD
Choir	Pre-recorded by household or taken from livestream archives	No live singing. Pre-recorded in small ensembles with precautions.	Live small ensembles with precautions or pre-recorded.	TBD
Bells	Taken from livestream archives	Pre-recorded small ensembles.	Yes - with added precautions	TBD
Praise Kids	No	No	TBD	TBD



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Love Grows Here

Loving Through Christ, Becoming Disciples, Serving All

Worship (3 of 3)	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
Operational Precautions				
Number of Services	1- Virtual, 10 am	2 – Virtual, 10:00 am Sanctuary, 10:30 am	1 – 10:30 am Sanctuary, Livestreamed on YouTube	TBD
Nursery	N/A	Limited to worship leader households	Yes, with precautions	TBD
Shared items in pews (i.e. hymnals, bibles, attendance, prayer cards)	No	No	Bibles in pews	TBD
Bulletins	No	Yes	Yes	TBD
PrayGround	N/A	Single-use worship kits available	Single-use worship kits available	TBD
Time for Young Disciples	Virtual	N/A	No	TBD
Children’s Chapel	N/A	No	No	TBD
Communion in Person	Virtually via Zoom	11:00 am hybrid: virtually via Zoom and in Sanctuary with household kits	Yes – in pews with household kits	Yes – with modifications for safety
Communion at Home	Kits delivered upon request	Kits delivered upon request	Kits delivered upon request	Yes – with precautions
Offering	Virtual	Virtual & Offering box in Narthex	Virtual & Offering box in Narthex	TBD
Receiving line	N/A	No	Outside	TBD
Volunteers (following HPC COVID-19 Volunteer Guidelines)				
Ushers	Virtual – Church Staff	2 Virtual, 2 in-person	1-2 Virtual, 2-4 in-person	Yes – new roles TBD
Liturgist	Pre-Recorded	Church Staff	Church Staff or Volunteer	Yes
Acolyte	Pre-recorded	Pre-recorded and in-person as able	Yes, if present	Yes
Nursery	N/A	Church Staff	Church Staff; volunteers with added precautions	Church Staff and volunteers
A/V Team	Yes, onsite for streaming weekly	Yes, balcony limited to A/V Team Households	Yes, balcony limited to A/V Team Households	Resume volunteer rotation



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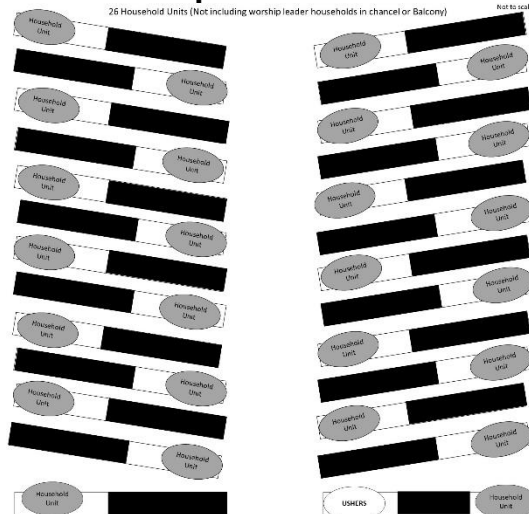
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Sanctuary Social Distancing Diagrams (updated 4.26.2021)

Phase 2 – Limited - 18 Households



Phase 3 – Expanded – 26 Households**



**Phase 3 balcony TBD once A/V issues of wiring and camera shake are resolved.

What is meant by “household”?

This term is used to recognize a group of individuals who are regularly engaged in contact equivalent of that of living in the same household, which may extend by mutual agreement to extended family members and friends.

Covenant of Care – Detailed Plans for Nurture

Nurture	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
Children	E-mail Resources and Virtual Gatherings	E-mail Resources, Virtual Gatherings, some small group gatherings with precautions	Small Group gatherings with precautions	TBD
Youth	Virtual	Virtual and in-person with precautions	Virtual and in-person with precautions	TBD
Adults	Virtual (Zoom)	Virtual (Zoom)	Hybrid Models with some small group gatherings	In-person gatherings along with continued hybrid virtual access as able.
Praise Kids	No	No	TBD	TBD



Heritage Presbyterian Church

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Loving Through Christ, Becoming Disciples, Serving All

Covenant of Care – Detailed Plans for Mission

Mission (1 of 2)	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
General				
Volunteers	Yes, essential volunteers only; groups of <10 following mission volunteer guidelines	Yes – groups of <25 following mission volunteer guidelines	Yes, following mission volunteer guidelines	Yes, following mission volunteer guidelines
Food Pantry				
Volunteers	Essential volunteers only as approved by JWFP director and Mission elders.	Yes, at scheduled work times with advance sign-up preferred.	Yes, at scheduled work times with advance sign-up preferred.	Yes, following mission volunteer guidelines
ACFB Deliveries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Target Pick-Up	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donations	No	Kevin’s Garden during volunteer hours only	Kevin’s Garden during volunteer hours only	TBD
Distribution	Drive-Up, Contact-free distribution, with contact-free registration online	Drive-Up, Contact-free distribution, with contact-free registration online	TBD – initially will continue as in Phase II	TBD
School Pantries	TBD with each school	TBD with each school	TBD with each school	TBD with each school
Clothing Closet				
Volunteers	N/A	Emergency requests and small group work as needed	Small Groups	TBD
Donations	No	No	TBD	TBD
Distribution	Emergency requests handled by church staff	Emergency requests handled by church staff and CC volunteers	TBD- Possibility of “pop-up” outdoor events	TBD
Kevin’s Garden				
Kevin’s Garden	Yes – individuals must keep distance	Yes – individuals must keep distance	Yes – individuals must keep distance	Yes



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Loving Through Christ, Becoming Disciples, Serving All

Mission (2 of 2)	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
Red Cross Blood Drive				
Blood Drives (American Red Cross)	Possible, in gym with precautions as ARC directs	Possible, in gym with precautions as ARC directs	Yes, in gym with precautions as ARC directs	Yes – location and needs TBD
Santa’s Caravan				
Preparation	At home	As needed to prepare storage space in M&M	TBD	TBD
Volunteers	Only essential volunteers as approved by SC director and Mission elders.	Yes, groups of <25 with precautions	Work sessions and North Pole TBD; Group size <25 with precautions	TBD
Interviews	Virtually or over the phone; curbside pick-up for winter clothing and food with limited to no contact.	Preparation online; 1 parent only; winter clothing and food box on site distribution with precautions; total group size <25 incl. volunteers	Preparation online; 1 parent only; winter clothing and food box on site distribution with precautions; total group size <25 incl. volunteers	TBD
HPC Shoppers	online	Online; limited in-person shopping	2 or 3 in a store as comfortable; session and store guidelines followed	TBD
Donations (Gifts)	TBD	Designated times for drop-off	Designated times for drop-off	TBD
North Pole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distribution	TBD; drive-through pick-up; limited delivery; no Santas	TBD; drive-through pick-up; limited delivery; no Santas	TBD; drive-through pick-up; limited delivery; no Santas	TBD

** Detailed mission plans, particularly for Food Pantry and Santa’s Caravan, will continue to develop in line with recipient needs, mission partners, and local situation. Final plans will be approved by the Mission Committee.



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Covenant of Care – Detailed Plans for Facilities

Facilities	Phase I Virtual	Phase II Limited In-Person	Phase III Expanded In-Person with Social Distancing	Phase IV “New Normal” In-Person
Church Activities	Essential office, worship, and mission activities	As approved by Session or related Committee	As approved by Session or related Committee	As scheduled with church office by leaders/committees
Personal use by church members	No	Considered on a case-by-case basis, with group size limited to social distancing space, no more than 25.	Considered on a case-by-case basis, with group size limited to social distancing space.	Yes, with “new normal” protocols in place
Marietta Presbyterian Church (Korean congregation)	At their discretion, following CDC and state guidelines from gathering; limited to Chapel building	At their discretion, following CDC and state guidelines from gathering; limited to Chapel building	Begin to consider use of HPC Ed Building for small group gatherings based on availability of space	TBD for Ed Building Use
Outside Groups with whom we have a standing relationship (i.e. Scouts, 575 Volleyball, Al-Anon)	No inside use. Outside use considered on a case-by-case basis.	Considered on a case-by-case basis, with group size limited to social distancing space, no more than 25.	Begin to allow return of groups with increased precautions, limited to social distancing space	TBD “new normal” protocols in place
Use by outside Groups who are new to using our Facilities	No	No. Exception may be made for groups with a connection to HPC	Considered on a case-by-case basis	Considered on a case-by-case basis

**** All groups - church, sponsored, and outside – are expected to adhere to the appropriate CDC guidelines (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>) regarding precautions based on composition of group present. Sponsored and outside groups should also consult their governing bodies and professional organizations for additional guidance.**

An exception for face masks is granted to individuals actively participating in athletic activities on the court in the gym or outdoors, and to those actively leading live worship or recording for worship. Any other exceptions should be requested to the Session through the appropriate committee.