



Hartford United Methodist Church

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ
through worship, fellowship, and teaching*

P.O. Box 159 • 102 E. 2nd St. • Hartford, SD 57033 • (605) 528-3822 • www.humcsd.org

Grace and peace, friends and family of Hartford United Methodist Church!

First and foremost, thank you for your patience and understanding in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic that has affected our world in such drastic ways. We have all done our best to help ensure the safety of our community, and we appreciate the ways in which you have helped to support social distancing efforts by worshiping with us online, or finding other ways to deepen your faith outside of an in-person worship service.

That said, we believe we will soon be able to resume worship in person with certain protective measures in place. On the back page of this letter, you will see some of the guidelines and protocols we have developed to make our facility as safe and welcoming as possible. Our hope is to have everything in place in time to resume in-person worship **Saturday, July 4th** at 5:30 pm and **Sunday, July 5th** at 9:30 am.

Please know that nothing we have decided has been motivated by a political agenda. We are simply doing our best to follow the advice and recommendations of the CDC, the South Dakota Department of Health, and other trusted sources to make our facility as safe as possible for those most at risk in our community. You may not agree with all of the measures we are taking, but we ask that you do your part in following these guidelines to help our Church continue to be a safe, welcoming place for as many people as possible. To paraphrase 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, though we have the right to do anything, such rights are not always beneficial to the greater good. As members of Christ's Church, we are not meant to work for our own advantage, but for the good of others. That said, whether you wear a mask or not, or worship online or in person, know that there will be no judgement on your decision, and we ask that you do not pass judgement on others for their choices.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our plan, or have additional suggestions you would like to share to help us in our task, please let Pastor Seth know. Thank you again, and we hope to see you soon!

-Hartford United Methodist Church Leadership

Pastor Seth LaBounty

Craig Doss

LaVonne Dieken

David Stearns

David Niewald

Georgia Viereck

Katie Peterson

Darin Johnson

Nancy Gacke

HUMC Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship

- We will continue to offer an online option for worship, and we encourage those who feel ill or who otherwise feel comfortable worshipping online to continue to do so.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at each entrance to the sanctuary and fellowship hall.
- All doors will be propped open to limit the number of times they are touched.
- We will be marking off sections in the Sanctuary to allow 6 feet between families.
- We ask that you wear a mask if it is safe for you to do so. If you do not have one, we will have some available for you when you enter the building.
- We will have an usher by the elevator wipe down the buttons with a sanitizer after each use.
- We will be shortening the service, as according to CDC guidelines the length of time spent in a poorly ventilated space (such as an older sanctuary) can increase the chances of infection.
- We will be removing the hymnals, Bibles, and other items from the pews as they are difficult to disinfect between uses. Everything necessary for worship will be projected on the screen.
- For the time being, we will **not** print bulletins, but will put announcements and other items on the Church's website. Those announcements will also be projected on the screen.
- We will not pass anything during the service.
 - Offering plates will be placed at the entrances to the sanctuary.
 - Prayer requests should be shared with Pastor Seth before the service through email or a note.
 - To record our attendance, please share your name(s) with our ushers as you enter.
- Communion will use pre-packaged elements, to limit physical interactions. For those worshipping online, these would be available for pick up the week prior to that service.
- We ask that you refrain from singing in the sanctuary, as studies indicate that singing projects particulates containing the coronavirus beyond the 6 foot range even with masks.
 - As alternatives to singing, you could hum the tune, or speak the words of the song.
- We ask that you refrain from physically touching other guests, and instead use other means of expressing greeting and signs of peace.
- At the end of the worship service, we will release our guests beginning from the back pews.
 - We will have sanitizing wipes available, and ask that one representative of each family take responsibility for wiping down their space after the service.
- We will not have a fellowship hour or other classes until further notice.
- We are also exploring the idea of outdoor worship, which would free us from certain restrictions.