

COVID-19 Response – Golden Hills SDA Church

May 17, 2020

We have been blessed in many ways these past several weeks even though we are not able to meet together physically. As a church we have been able provide several options.

- You can participate in an interactive online worship service through our Sabbath morning livestream. You can find it on our [Website](#), our [Facebook Page](#), or our [YouTube Channel](#). If you need help getting set up to watch the service on line, don't hesitate to reach out to any of our Elders (see below for contact info).
- You can receive a DVD of our Sabbath Service if you are unable to access it online. To get one, call or text call or text Lori Knutson (402-980-5018).
- We have the technology to carry on the business of our church by meeting together through video conferencing.
- You can participate in Prayer Meeting each week using that same technology ([click here](#) to download instructions on how to join us at Prayer Meeting).
- Your continued generosity, and especially your use of our [online giving portal](#), has kept our budget on track – thank you! If you prefer, you can mail your tithe and offerings to Golden Hills Church, 3005 Golden Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68123.
- If you're a member or have been attending our services, you're on our calling tree. Someone has (or will) call you to see how you're doing. If for some reason you haven't heard from someone, don't hesitate to reach out to any of our Elders (see below for contact info).

However, we know you're anxious to begin getting together as a group again. The online stuff is a blessing, but still not quite like being together in person. We're wanting this to happen too.

Last Tuesday evening, at our Church Board Meeting (May 12), we began the discussion of how and when we can open our building again for services.

Taking into consideration that COVID-19 infection rates still going up – and even accelerating in some places, and that many of the medical personnel in our state believe we have not yet peaked in our cases and could still see significant numbers become ill; we took the following two actions.

1. We tentatively scheduled a target date for opening our facility for use again – July 11. This date can be adjusted if we need to, but we believe this gives us enough time to observe which direction the disease is moving and make the preparations needed in order to safely start opening our building for use.
2. We created a Re-Opening Taskforce to consider all the issues and to create an action plan. We need good answers for questions like:
 - What will our weekly cleaning and disinfecting process look like?
 - How will we maintain the suggested distancing between family groups so as to minimize the possibility of spreading the infection?
 - What will our children's Sabbath School program look like given the difficulty of children following appropriate social distancing guidelines?
 - How will we handle baptisms and communion services?
 - Will we still hand out bulletins or pass offering plates around?
 - How do we greet members and visitors as they come to church?
 - When will it be safe to start serving breakfast again and enjoying the fellowship of potlucks?

The three documents below are helping guide us in this process (simply click on the title to open it). And we will carefully consider the continuing recommendations of the [CDC](#), [University of Nebraska Med Center](#), [Adventist Risk Management](#), and [Adventist Health](#).

- [4 Components to Reopening Church after COVID-19](#)
- [24 Questions Your Church Must Answer before Welcoming People Back](#)
- [Recommendations from the Kansas Nebraska Conference](#)

We will keep you informed as we move towards the goal of once again meeting together in our church building.

In the meantime, take care of yourself and check up on others. If you become aware of needs, or are having difficulties yourself, please reach out to us. You can contact Pastor T or any of our Elders (see below for contact info). We will be happy to do what we can do to help.

And be sure you are continuing to take time with Jesus every day.

Elder's Contact Information

- **Pastor T:** 402-517-5333, martinsent@gmail.com
- **Kalvin Tuel:** 402-201-6370, kalvin.tuel@gmail.com
- **Brenda Eitel:** 402-212-5614, jandbeitel@cox.net
- **Carol Fennessy:** 402-292-1333, carolfennessy@yahoo.com
- **Miyong Kuon:** 402-715-0055, kuayak@gmail.com
- **Steve Wilhelmsen:** 402-708-2730, AWACST5@aol.com

May 1, 2020

Our Governor has announced that our state will begin loosening restrictions on some businesses and churches allowing them to begin functioning again on a limited basis. (To learn more about this, see below.)

We have not yet decided when we will open the church doors to services again. It's a process our church leadership will begin dealing with at our next Church Board meeting – May 12.

Even after that, we will be moving slowly, ensuring that we stay within the guidelines set by our State and the CDC. The last thing we want is to move ahead in such a way that our church becomes a vehicle for COVID-19 exposure.

Are we wanting to get back together again? More than we can express in words. But, we want to do it in a way that minimizes the risk of spreading the virus around and protects your health.

Please keep praying for us – and all our church members during this difficult time. And if you become aware of something happening with someone that we need to get especially involved with, please let us know (especially if that someone is you). We would rather be notified 10 times about a need than to miss it. You can contact either Pastor T (402-517-5333) or any one of our Elders ([click here](#) for a current list with contact information).

We are still having an **Interactive Worship Service Online** each Sabbath morning at 11:05 am. You can view it on our [Facebook Page](#), our [Homepage](#), or our [YouTube Channel](#).

We are having Prayer Meetings, Board Meetings, and MLT Meetings on our Zoom Channel ([click here](#) for instructions on how to join these meeting)

We are communicating through Golden News (our e-mail newsletter), the [Pastor's Blog](#), the [homepage](#) of our Website (goldenhillchurch.org/), our [Facebook Page](#), and through [Remind](#).

- [Gov. Ricketts Issues Executive Order on Unemployment Benefits & Releases Guidance for Places of Worship to Resume Services. \(4/30/2020\)](#)
- [Ricketts easing Nebraska coronavirus restrictions as of May 4; limited reopening of economy.](#)
- [Q&A: What you need to know about Nebraska's relaxed restrictions for businesses, churches.](#)
- [Clergy proceed with caution as Nebraska services can begin again.](#)
- [24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return.](#)

For the most reliable, up-to-date information, on the COVID-19 virus situation, check out the [CDC](#), the [World Health Organization](#), [Adventist Risk Management](#), and [Adventist Health](#), [UNMC](#), and the [University of Minnesota, COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

April 22, 2020

We are still not having any face-to-face meetings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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To get notices through [Remind](#), our emergency alert service, you must be signed up. You can do this by simply texting the message "@tmartinse" to the number 81010 (or 941-787-5566) – [click here](#) for more detailed instructions.

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April 7, 2020

We are still not having any face-to-face meetings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We are having our worship service online each Sabbath morning at 11:15 am. You can see it on our [Facebook Page](#) or our [YouTube Channel](#).

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March 26, 2020

We are still closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We are having our worship service each Sabbath morning at 11:15 am. You can see it on our YouTube Channel or on our Facebook Page (Golden Hills SDA Church).

We are communicating through [Golden News](#) (our e-mail newsletter), the [Pastor's Blog](#), the [homepage](#) of our Website (goldenhillchurch.org/), our [Facebook Page](#), and through [Remind](#).

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Online Resources for You and Your Family

Our **Conference Family Ministries Department** have assembled numerous resources for you and your family. These include articles, children's activities, and much more. [Click here](#) children's ministries and [click here](#) for family ministries.

Free download of [Guide Magazine](#), [click here](#); free download of [Primary Treasure](#), [click here](#).

From [Advent Source](#), **Free Adventist Preaching DVDs**, you will only pay for the postage. [Click here](#) for their selections.

From [NAD Prayer Ministries](#), a number of prayer ministries – [click here](#).

From [Bible Gateway](#), listen to Scripture as you read it – [click here](#).

From [Home Touch Ministries](#), free resources for the elderly and homebound – [click here](#).

From [Children's Worship Bulletins](#), free resources for children – [click here](#).

From [Queen of Free](#), free resources for children (read the disclaimer) – [click here](#).

From [Church Tech Today](#), 7 Best Bible Memorization Apps – [click here](#).

March 16, 2020

Our board voted today to *cancel all face-to-face activities at our church* until we are on the other side of the COVID-19 crisis. During this time, we will have a worship time together on-line each Sabbath Morning at 11:15 am using our video streaming service. Any business that needs to be conducted by the MLT or the Church Board will be done via email or video conferencing. Pastor T and our Elders can all be reached by phone or email ([click here](#) to download a list of Elders with their contact information). We will add to this note and send out additional information as things change.

Here are some additional resources for you if you wish to use them:

- [To Save a Life is to Save the World: A Look at COVID-19](#) – an article by Lois Tverberg, PhD explaining how the exponential growth of cases will affect us
- [University of Minnesota, COVID-19 Resource Center](#) – one of the best, unbiased centers of information led by [Michael Osterholm](#), PhD, MPH; one of country's top epidemiologist who is an advisor to the CDC.

March 12, 2020

If you follow the news, even a little bit, you know the danger and the disruption cause by the COVID-19 virus around the world. As it circles us and comes closer to our community we want to be a part of the solution, doing all we can to slow it down.

It's not a time to panic – but it is time to take appropriate measures to protect ourselves and those around us.

Personally that means doing things like washing your hands regularly, avoiding crowds, staying home from work or school (or church) if you're sick, etc. This is really all just common sense.

As a church, we also need to do our part. While we do not know where this will lead us over the next weeks and months, we are beginning our response by taking the following actions.

1. We will be sanitizing all the regularly handled surfaces at church each week.
2. We are cancelling breakfasts and potlucks until we are past this.
3. We recommend you do not hug others or shake hands while at church
4. We recommend that if you are elderly, sick in any way, or have a weak immune system, you enjoy church from home through our live-stream option. (To access this go to www.YouTube.com and search for [Golden Hills SDA Church](#))

There may be additional changes necessary as the situation progresses. We will communicate these changes through the [Golden News](#) (our e-mail newsletter), the [Pastor's Blog](#), the [homepage](#) of our Website (goldenhillchurch.org/), and through the Remind App.

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