

WALNUT GROVE UMC CAMPUS COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Updated 11/8/2021

History

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we as a church continue to offer praises to the Lord as well as maintain safety for all of God's people. Our Methodist founder, John Wesley, preached a message of "Do no harm" to ourselves or others. In following this directive, we encourage your cooperation with the following guidelines approved by our Walnut Grove UMC COVID Taskforce. This group, comprised of laity, staff and clergy, meets monthly to review current disease statistics and provide updates for campus safety. The guidelines follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Orange County Health Department (OCHD), and North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church's recommendations for safety.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship services are held in the Sanctuary and wirelessly transmitted to the Fellowship Hall. Masks are required in both rooms for all persons regardless of vaccination status.

Before the Service

- 1) Two entrances may be used: 1) front door of the church and 2) main door of the Fellowship Hall.
- 2) For services with communion, a pre-packaged cup with grape juice and a wafer (on top) will be given to each person by the greeter.
- 3) Offering plates/baskets are available at each entrance/exit.
- 4) Hand sanitizer stations are available at each entrance/exit.

Masks/Face Coverings and Physical Distancing

- 1) Masks are required in both worship spaces regardless of vaccination status.
- 2) Masks are not required for children 2 and under.
- 3) Physical distance of 6 feet is recommended between people living in different households.

After the Service

- 1) Everyone is requested to remain seated until your row is dismissed by the usher.
- 2) Everyone is encouraged to go outside to fellowship with each other.
- 3) The pastor will greet people on the porch leading to the courtyard.
- 4) Offering plates/baskets are available at each entrance/exit.

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Scheduling Meetings/Gatherings

All activities on church grounds should be scheduled through the church secretary's office at 919-732-5722. All gatherings must meet current CDC, NCDHHS and OCHD COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Indoor Meetings/Gatherings of Church Sponsored Groups

Meetings/gatherings must adhere to the "Masks/Face Coverings", "Other Safety Measures", and "Cleaning and Disinfection" sections listed below. Below are examples of these groups:

- 1) Covenant Council, Ministry Team, SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Worship, COVID Taskforce, etc.
- 2) Mary Martha Busy Ladies, UMW, WG Prayers & Squares, WG Crafters, etc.
- 3) UMYF, KidsKrew and other children and youth gatherings
- 4) Musicians/singers – traditional & contemporary musicians/singers for Sunday
- 5) Sunday School classes

Currently, potentially large gatherings such as showers, receptions, reunions, etc. for non-church related groups are not being scheduled in the Fellowship Hall at this time.

Masks/Face Coverings

- 1) Masks are required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- 2) Individuals who are FULLY vaccinated are not required to wear a mask outdoors.
- 3) Individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated need to wear a mask outdoors.
- 4) Masks are not required for children 2 and under.

Other Safety Measures

- 1) Physical distance of 6 feet is recommended between people living in different households.
- 2) Hand sanitizer stations are available at each entrance/exit.
- 3) After meetings/gatherings, surfaces used should be cleaned with an EPA-approved disinfectant as outlined in the "Cleaning and Disinfection" section below.

Use of Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Tables/Chairs

- 1) "Masks/Face Coverings" and "Other Safety Measures" guidelines as listed above must be followed.
- 2) After use, clean surfaces following the "Cleaning and Disinfection Practices" section. An EPA-approved disinfectant (Lysol or other approved cleaner) is located on the back counter in the kitchen.

Weddings and Funerals

Wedding and Funerals will be scheduled in consultation with the pastor.

- 1) Masks are required by all attendees. (exception - children age 2 and under)
- 2) Attendees are encouraged to go outside following an indoor service for fellowship.
- 3) No large gatherings or events (i.e., receptions, dinners, etc.) are permitted in the Fellowship Hall at this time.

NOTE: The above guidelines are based on the following CDC recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html#stay6ft>

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PRACTICES

- 1) Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and wash hands when finished.
- 2) Clean kitchen surfaces using soap and water first, then an EPA-approved disinfectant product (from the EPA-List N) that is effective against COVID-19 according to product directions. (i.e., spray and leave disinfectant on surface as directed – will be anywhere from 1 to 10 minutes, before wiping off)
- 3) An EPA-approved disinfectant (such as Lysol or other EPA-approved cleaner) is currently located on the back counter in the kitchen, labeled "For Kitchen Use".
- 4) Clean other surfaces (i.e., tables, chairs) with disinfectant as above as needed
- 5) Clean computer screens, keyboards, phones, and other non-porous surfaces using soap and water (if indicated) followed by use of the UV-C sanitizing wand. (This is primarily for staff and Sunday techs.)

NOTE: The above cleaning and disinfecting guidelines are based on the following CDC recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>