

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

~ Outdoor Group Meeting ~

approved by Church Council 9/13/ 2020

The safety of all our members and guests is our overriding priority. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues we are monitoring the situation closely and following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, local health authorities, and the directions given to us by the Bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and reduce the potential risk of exposure at Myers Memorial UMC (MMUMC), we are asking that all participants covenant to the following before coming to our campus for an outdoor small group function.

1. The Group must be planned in advance and approved on the MMUMC church calendar.
2. The Group meeting should be held to one hour or less.
3. The Group can meet outdoors with 25 or less in attendance. This number includes volunteers, leaders, and participants. Multiple groups can meet simultaneously as long as they remain in their designated spaces.
4. Approved spaces for group use:
 - a. CFC Parking Lot;
 - b. Gathering Garden,
 - c. Bell Tower Portico to Music Suite;
 - d. Grassy Area outside Church Office;
 - e. Pumpkin Patch.
5. In the event of inclement weather, the group is responsible for making decisions about meeting and for rescheduling with the MMUMC church calendar.
6. The Group leader must communicate requirements to all participants prior to the group meeting so that everyone is fully informed. (For example, you may choose to email this document to all participants.)
7. Participants must agree to stay outside. Restrooms are only to be used in an emergency situation. High touchpoints in the restrooms should immediately be wiped down and sanitized by the individual when used. The church office should also be informed of any bathroom usage so that a follow-up cleaning can happen after the event. Access to restrooms is available during office hours or the Group leader may make arrangements prior to meeting time for restroom access.
8. Participants are asked to sanitize their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the event. Groups are responsible for providing their own sanitizer.
9. Participants agree to practice social distancing at all times (remaining 6 feet apart) throughout the event.
10. Participants over the age of 3 are required to wear a mask or face covering.

11. The Group leader must complete an attendance roster indicating the names and a contact number for all participants. If the participant is a minor, the parent/guardian must also be listed.
12. By listing one's name on the attendance roster, each individual or the individual's parent/guardian agrees to abide by the above requirements and also affirms that:
 - a. During the last 14 days, the individual has not had and is not presently experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, the new loss of taste or smell, new onset of head or muscle ache, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting.
 - b. In the past 14 days, the individual has not been in close proximity to someone experiencing the above symptoms or has not been around someone who is under investigation for or tested positive for COVID-19.
13. The Group leader is responsible for submitting the attendance roster to the MMUMC office within 48 hours of the group meeting. Digital reporting is preferred to reduce contact.
14. The Group leader is responsible for making sure all spaces used by the group are cleaned and properly sanitized at the conclusion of the meeting. An acceptable cleaner on any outdoor surface would be soap and water. Frequently touched surfaces must also be disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19. CDC has a comprehensive list. Outside groups are responsible for providing their own cleaner and disinfectant.
15. The Group leader is responsible for bringing a trash bag, collecting all trash, and placing it in the outdoor dumpster at the conclusion of the meeting.
16. At this time, no food should be served or shared during these gatherings (i.e. no picnics, coffee hour, potluck, snack suppers). Prepackaged, individual servings of food items may be given out, yet not consumed on the property; ministries that include food preparation require the use of gloves, masks, and proper sanitation before and after. (i.e. Weekend Backpack Food Program, Boys & Girls Supper Club)
17. The church playgrounds will be available at a future date, communicated from the church office. Playground equipment will not be sanitized. Individuals who use the playground do so at their own risk.
18. Failure to comply with these guidelines and any other previously. Agreed upon may result in the group no longer being able to meet at MMUMC.

Updated & Approved by Church Council Vote: September 13, 2020