



N84 W16707 Menomonee Avenue ♦ Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 ♦ 262-251-3830

**\*\*Due to the COVID variant risks, our Covenant of Care has changed\*\***

## **COVENANT OF CARE**

1. Face masks are required in the building at all times, regardless of vaccination status, unless you are working alone in an office with the door closed.
2. Ushers will seat the congregation for worship according to the church's social distancing protocol and encourage family units to sit together. They will release the last row of the sanctuary first, once the pastoral team has left.
3. Singing (while wearing a mask) is encouraged. Our choirs will be back once the risk has normalized.
4. Elements of the worship service will be different, and the service will be shorter.
  - Communion will be offered using individual, prepackaged kits.
  - Sign-up pads will be referred to if the need of contact tracing is required
5. Professionally staffing nursery is currently available.
6. To reduce the need for sanitizing, please avoid walking into different areas of the church. Hand sanitizer will be available for use upon entering and leaving the building.
7. Groups are allowed to meet in Chapel Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Choir Room and Celebration Hall. Register your group through Sheryl in the office. Food must be eaten outdoors.
8. There will not be fellowship time or refreshments in Celebration Hall. Everyone is expected to leave the building immediately at the end of the service.

## **CELEBRATION SERVICE**

Celebration Worship will take place in-person only (no recording or livestream). The schedule can be found on the website.

### **Protocols for Celebration Worship:**

- Masks are required
- Enter at typical entrance door (the one closest to the bathrooms)
- Sanitizing station placed at this entrance
- Prop open doors/windows to increase air flow when weather permits
- Families/Groups should begin by filling far front tables and work towards entrance door
- Exit beginning with tables closest to the exit door that leads directly outside
- Baskets placed near exit doors for deposit of offering and attendance cards

Using the guidelines from the WI Annual Conference and best practices as set forth by the CDC, the ECUMC Facility Reopening Team developed this plan to conduct in-person weddings and funerals in our Sanctuary. Our primary goal is to love one another and ensure the safety of all.

Below is our Wedding & Funeral Covenant of Care. It outlines our mutual commitment to respect the health and comfort of one another. These practices may change as new best practice information becomes available and/or restrictions are imposed or lifted.

## **WEDDING & FUNERAL COVENANT OF CARE**

1. A Building Use Form (available from the church office or ec-umc.com) must be completed and returned to the Administrative Assistant when scheduling a wedding or funeral.
2. Masks are required for guests, regardless of their vaccination status. The church will provide disposable masks, and hand sanitizer will be available.
3. The family will provide 2-4 ushers to be present during the wedding or visitation and funeral. Ushers should all be given a copy of and adhere to this document.
4. Family members and guests must sign-in for contact tracing purposes. A guest registry will be sufficient to eliminate the need for guests to sign-in twice. Pens will be provided by the church as well as a basket to place used pens. An usher must be assigned to make sure everyone registers.
5. Singing by the congregation (wearing masks) will be permitted, and there will be no limit to the number of musicians providing special music.

6. Plan all media requirements with the AV Tech Team as far in advance as possible. Please consider creating a video to show pictures on the video screen above the altar to discourage guests from congregating around picture boards.
7. Please leave the glass doors between the Pastors' Offices and Fellowship Hall closed to deter people from wandering through the church.
8. There is a baby changing station in the family bathroom next to the office.
9. The men's, women's, and family bathrooms near the office are available for use. Bathrooms will be disinfected prior to the visitation and following the funeral.
10. Water fountains and the coat racks in the Narthex are closed. Please take coats into the Sanctuary.
11. Please have ushers remind guests to remain socially distanced in line until seated by an usher.
12. Ushers will seat family groups in every other pew maintaining 6 feet between groups.
13. Ushers will dismiss families one row at a time. Guests should leave the pews toward the side aisles and immediately exit through the single, side doors to the parking lot. In order to keep traffic flowing from the Sanctuary to the sidewalk, ushers will hold the side doors open and actively discourage people from gathering in the Narthex. The carport door will be available for guests requiring drop-off and pick-up closer to the Sanctuary.
14. Signs (arrows) will be provided by the church to help guests follow the traffic pattern.
15. Celebration Hall and Fellowship Hall are not yet available for funeral receptions. Areas are available on the grass and in the parking lot for fellowship.

Thank you for adhering to these guidelines which allow us to gather in support of loved ones while protecting one another as best we can. This Covenant of Care will change as new best practice information becomes available.