

MELROSE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE OPERATIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 as of March 1, 2022

Per Illinois Great Rivers Conference guidelines, each UMC church is to ascertain what measures should remain or be modified to allow for the safety of members and guests. Specific policy guidelines are offered below. Please know that Zoom remains an option for meeting/gathering of individuals. If needed, please arrangements with church office.

In light of the decreasing risks posed by the coronavirus, Melrose Chapel UMC has adopted the following policy update:

The coronavirus continues to be present; however, its risks have decreased among much of the population. With that in mind, we are no longer strongly recommending masks and social distancing but do ask that individuals continue to observe good health practices as well as to respect the personal decisions of others regarding their own health safety. Our intent has always been to do no harm and we continue to have individuals in our midst that are either experiencing health crises of their own or who care for those that do.

On Sunday mornings, we will continue to take attendance at the door, and will provide baskets at the back of the sanctuary for giving/offering purposes. Services will be recorded for those unable to attend in person and greeting time within the service will proceed as is currently done. Classes and groups can also relax the wearing of masks and observance of social distancing, but leaders are encouraged to consult with their group members regarding their comfort in doing so.

The Emergency Preparedness Team will continue to monitor these and other needs and suggest changes as necessary.

Team Members

Nancy Wilson, Joel Peck, Sondra Snyder, Gayle Gottman, Linda Wensing

ACTIVITY	GUIDANCE
Sunday Worship	Masking and social distancing are optional
Communion	Servers will hand bread/cup to individuals
Offering	Offering to be placed in baskets at entry/exit
Hymnals	Lyrics provided on screen; hymnals available in pews
Bulletins	Flow announced by worship leaders with use of screens
Check-in	Accomplished by greeters for attendance purposes
Choirs/Singing	Allowable with consideration given for social distancing
Sunday School Classes	Masking and social distancing are optional
Nursery Care	Not provided currently; ask that masking occur for benefit of children
Meetings / Other Groups	Masking and social distancing are optional. No sign-in necessary
Main Entrances / Offices	Masking and social distancing are optional. No sign-in necessary.
Food Prep / Service	Continue use of masks/gloves for food preparation
Special Events	Determined on a case-by-case basis