

GUIDELINES FOR HOSTS



Liturgy

AN UPPER ROOM SERIES

Thank you so much for your willingness to host Upper Room community members during our summer Liturgy series. We recognize that everyone has different levels of risk tolerance right now when it comes to connecting in person and are hopeful we can hold that tension for our community. Here are a few guidelines and questions to consider, along with some next steps in your role as a host.

Suggested Guidelines*

- Try to stick to gatherings of no more than 12 individuals.
- Host the evening outdoors where people from different households can stay at least 6 feet apart.
- BYO Everything: Communion supplies, chairs, snacks and drinks.
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering during times when it is difficult to stay at least 6 feet apart. Wear a mask when you arrive, when you leave, and if you have to move around among people.
- Please provide hand sanitizer.
- Please note: People who are age 65 years and older and people with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. It is best for these individuals to avoid gatherings as much as possible.

*These Suggested Guidelines are based on [Stay Safe MN Phase III](#).

We recognize there is some flexibility within the MN Department of Health guidelines and invite you take some time to reflect on the questions below and have a conversation with your guests using the conversation points provided.

Considerations for the Host

As a host, it will be important to think through your own level of risk tolerance as you invite others into your space.

- Not everyone is comfortable offering bathroom privileges. How do you feel about this as a host? (If you are open, please consider ditching cloth towels in favor of disposable ones and having soap and hand sanitizer on hand.)
- We acknowledge that even when social distancing is prioritized, we understand it might not be entirely possible with small children. How do you feel about this as a host? Are you comfortable with children in your backyard?
- While gathering in homes, masks are suggested but not required - as a host - would you want your guests wearing masks while you gather?
- In the event of bad weather, are you open to having the group meet inside your home? (Currently the Stay Safe MN guidelines say no more than 10 indoors and we will continue to offer an all virtual option each week.)
- Are you comfortable with this statement: I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate openly with the group members about expectations and guidelines of our gathering.

Liturgy Group Communication

After you personally land on some guidelines, prior to your first Sunday together, we are asking hosts to engage in a conversation so that everyone in your group feels clear about expectations and guidelines before your first meeting.

- Share with the group where you land with bathroom use.
- If you are open to hosting children, discuss the following question: We acknowledge that even when social distancing is prioritized, we understand it might not be entirely possible with small children. How do we feel about this? Are there ways we can be intentional or creative with this?
- Ask this question of the group: What is our agreement around wearing masks?
- If you are open to moving the gathering indoors, discuss the following question: What would our group like to do in the event of bad weather? Stay home and connect virtually? Move indoors? Find another creative solution?
- Share with the group the following guideline: In an attempt to help avoid the spread of the virus - please let our group members know if you have symptoms of or have tested positive for COVID-19. Group members are then encouraged to follow the [guidelines provided by the MN Department of Health](#) and let the Upper Room Staff know so that we can be praying for you.

Next Steps

We would love to know if you are hosting! Take a moment and let us know by [filling out this form](#). This will help us if we send out any additional communication to Liturgy hosts, as well as help to let us know how people are engaging with this series.

Thank You

Thanks again. We know these are not the easiest of conversations, but our hope is that with open and upfront communication we can create welcoming spaces of belonging and participate in worship together. We are hopeful for the ways this point of connection will be enlivening and energizing as we reconnect in new ways. This is uncharted territory - so we are all learning as we go... thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to create opportunities for connection while doing it as safely as possible. If you have questions, please contact Katie Sanders.

"...be inventive in hospitality."
Romans 12: 13 (the Message)

"From an etiquette standpoint, we are in uncharted territory," says Mindy Lockard, founder of a Portland etiquette and leadership firm that bears her name. "But this goes back to the traditional mind-set of a host or hostess: You always put the needs and comfort of your guest first." Monica Theis, a senior lecturer in the department of food science at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, says it's best to be as straightforward with guests as possible about your expectations. But don't take it personally if a friend isn't ready to get together. Everyone's comfort and risk tolerance should be respected." - Washington Post article by Emily Heil and Jura Koncius

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