

from the UUFDC Executive Committee

We have been so good at “sheltering at home” during this pandemic and now the weather is getting warmer ... some of us are itching to see each other face to face. Zoom has helped a lot of us stay connected; and it is just not the same. We know that gatherings inside each other’s houses are not safe because some of us could be COVID-19 carriers and not know it.

So why not get together outside? Well, that is a possibility IF we still follow the CDC and Badger Bounce Back guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing (of at least 6 feet), good hand hygiene, and no more than 10 people. At this time, it is not recommended that we share food or drink sources ... so bring your own drinks, food, and hand sanitizer if you choose to get together.

The UUFDC Board is beginning to work on guidelines for social gatherings and safety regarding Fellowship sanctioned outdoor events. But this will take a while. We are using documents such as the **UUA Guidelines** (<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>), **CDC guidelines** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>), **our insurance company Church Mutual recommendations** (<https://coronavirus.churchmutual.com/resource/safely-returning-to-worship/>), and the **WI Council of Church’s Guidelines** (<https://www.wichurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Returning-to-Church.pdf>) in determining our plans.

And, of course, we are referring to the **Badger Bounce Back Plan** (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02653a.pdf>) and **Door County Health Department recommendations** as well.

As you can tell by this list of resources, the issues are complex and comprehensive. We need to be extremely careful, especially because most of our members and friends are in the vulnerable age group of 60+ years old.

SO... as tempting as it might be to throw caution to the wind, please do not do that! COVID-19 is alive and well across our country and in Door County. Technically, we have not even met the Gating Criteria for Phase I of the Badger Bounce Back Plan (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/prepare.htm>). And this is a nasty and life-threatening virus. So, we must remain vigilant to keep ourselves and others healthy. Join us in UUFDC Zoom groups sponsored by the book club, Caring Committee, and Program Committee. If you need help setting up Zoom, we can provide that. Contact Sara McKillop (contact@UUFDC.org) for help with Zoom and information regarding those and other groups that may pop up.

In the meantime, please enjoy our beautiful county and each other safely. Peace and health to all!!