

Staying Social

Links and Ideas for UMCES Community during COVID-19

Interactive Games

1. Playing Cards: <http://playingcards.io/>

This site allows for group play of a variety of games (Cards Against Humanity, Crazy Eights, Go Fish, checkers, and more). You can set up a room and send the invite to whomever is playing and then jump on Zoom or Google Hangouts to talk while you play.

2. Jackbox Games: <https://jackboxgames.com/>

This site hosts a variety of games that people can play on different platforms (computers, Nintendo switches, etc.). They have several links on their page including explanations for playing remotely. Some games cost money, but a few are free; however, if someone already owns them, they can create a room and others can log in using the room information from their phones at (<https://jackbox.tv/>).

3. Games by Email: <http://gamesbyemail.com/>

This site hosts a variety of games (the WWII game has been suggested specifically) and has instructions on how to play. It has been said that the by email format is nice because people don't all have to play at the same time, but you do get some interaction between players.

4. Virtual Escape Rooms

Several local libraries around the world are creating virtual escape rooms that you can play individually or with a group! Below is a link with links to two of the current rooms (Harry Potter themed and Alice in Wonderland themed!)

<https://libguides.rbc.edu/c.php?g=821463&p=7382096>

TV and Streaming

1. Netflix Watch Party

<https://www.netflixparty.com/>

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/netflix-party/oocalimngaihdkbihfgmpkcpnmlaoa?hl=en>

This is a Google Chrome extension that allows you and a group of people to simultaneously stream Netflix. It has a chat window and play/pauses for everyone in the group so the movie watching stays synced.

2. Zoom/Google Hangouts Virtual Meet-ups

Zoom is a web-based application enabling faculty, staff, and students to host meetings, webinars, and conference calls remotely. UMCES has a number of Zoom login credentials for use. Please contact your lab's assistant director or IT group for more information on your lab's credentials. To download Zoom for your desktop, laptop, or mobile device, please see the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/download>.

Google Hangouts can be accessed from any Google account and can be found on the left hand side of your email. This is unlimited and can be used with one other person or groups. You can click the plus side next to your name and type in all the participants for the call.

WebEx also has video conferencing services and can be found here <https://www.webex.com/pricing/index.html>

Many people have suggested or have already done dinner parties over Zoom or Google Hangouts. A potluck style has been suggested where everyone prepares their own dish, or a party where everyone prepares the same menu to eat together. Some have already done this and have all cooked at the same time and then ate together! This could be done on individual planning or perhaps at some point we could host an UMCES celebration as well.

Virtual Karaoke

Instructions for Hosting a TeleKaraoke Party

Read: [Monday-Night Telekaraoke With 10 Internet Strangers \(and the Occasional Dog\)](#)
New York Magazine

Here's how it will go, loosely:

1. Start a Zoom meeting (this allows everyone to see and hear each other)
2. Create a Watch2Gether Room (this allows us to watch the same karaoke videos at the same time/playback rate) <https://community.watch2gether.com/t/how-to-use-watch2gether/736>
3. In the chat function of the Zoom Meeting, put your name and song request
Example: Sarah "Goodbye Earl"
4. Organizer will add it to the queue in (roughly) the order they come in.
Please be patient. If you want to do more than one song wait until after your first to add another.
5. When your song comes up, I'll introduce you and you'll....
6. Sing!

*Duets encouraged! We can take a couple breaks here and there to chat and say hello and find duet partners.

*Costumes and fun lighting are also encouraged!

Best Practices:

- [Learn how to use Watch2Gether here](#)
- It is encouraged to use earphones so there is no echo and you can still sing along. If you don't have earphones put yourself on mute while it's not your song.

Want to host your own? Here are some quick tips!

1. Have everyone mute except the singer
2. If you are doing a group number have everyone lower/mute the volume on *just* their Watch2gether window except for you. (This helps mitigate the lag between song/words. It won't be perfect, but since folks will see the words on the screen they can more easily match the timing with one audio source)
3. The host can change settings in the Watch2gether room so they are the only ones to add songs to the queue. (Some youtube videos won't play on the platform and you'll have to go through a couple to get them to work).
4. Bonus Tip: End with a big group number. May I suggest September by Earth, Wind and Fire.

Slack Channels

Slack channels for a variety of things have been suggested and channels that have been proposed for set up include

interesting-tutorials
laughs-and-morale-boosts
admin-questions
remote-learning-resources

Each lab may have different ways of using the tool. In Slack, once a workspace is created, everyone in the workspace can communicate with each-other via private messages or join different channels that revolve around specific topics. Once in a channel, you would get a notification (similar to someone walking in the grad student room and asking a question) when someone posts a question or a link. This allows students to join channels they are interested in, and stay out of ones they are not.

This was also suggested as a way to replicate chatting with colleagues. A lab one was suggested, but also an UMCES channel. Perhaps there could be lab channels as well as an UMCES wide one.