

## Support Your Local Church

As we continue to practice social distancing, consider how you can support your local church as we do ministry in a new way. Start by connecting with your Pastor or Youth Worker to learn about what is already in place and how you can help. Then, consider the below. Visit with your Pastor and/or Youth Worker about the options you are interested and ask them help you connect with the right volunteer or staff person.

Remember to continue to practice caution and maintain social distancing.

### Online Worship and Bible Study:

- Participate in the virtual options available at your church for worship/Bible study/etc. Use your social media to share your involvement so that others may be encouraged to connect.
- Volunteer to be a virtual usher. This could include: comment to welcome everyone, remind people to check in, post the scripture in the comments, summarize announcements, etc.
- Are you good at explaining technology? Find out if there are persons at your church that would benefit from a phone call helping them understand how to participate in online worship.
- Ask your Youth Worker how you can help with planning online youth group
- Ask your Youth Worker what the best way would be for you to share devotionals and encouragement with your youth group.

### Connect with those at a higher risk for COVID-19

- Ask if you can help connect with these persons by giving them a call or sending them a cheerful card or letter. You will need to ask your church for a list of persons to contact and their number or address.
  - If your church has persons that are at high risk but are unable to provide names, ask if you can write a generic encouraging letter that the church would send for you.
- Is your church organizing delivering groceries or other things to these persons? Ask how you can help with this process.

### Support parents of young children

- Find out if you can help parents of young children virtually. Can you set up a time to video chat and read a children's book? Or if you're musical, play some songs? If you're crafty, maybe there is a simple craft you can lead that doesn't require any special supplies. You could be a helpful break for the parents in your congregation.
- Are there elementary school subjects that you are strong in? Ask if you can help virtually tutor elementary students. (While parents might feel strong in a subject they may not be familiar with how it is being taught in elementary schools. For example, if you are familiar with how math is being taught that could be very helpful to parents!)

- Is your Children's Ministry looking at creative ways to connect with children in this time? Can you help? For example, this idea was shared online: a Facebook Easter Egg Hunt! Ask folks to color eggs and put them in their windows so families can drive around the neighborhood and look for them.

#### Support your Pastor(s), Youth Workers and Church Staff

- This is a new territory for everyone and we are all learning! Your pastors and church staff are working hard to support your congregation in this unprecedented time. Help provide care to your pastors and church staff by sending them a note/text/email of appreciation and encouragement.
- Ask your church staff if they have loved ones that are currently having to live in isolation. If they do, ask if you can send their loved one a cheerful card. You can share with their loved ones what you appreciate about the staff person. It would mean a lot to the loved one and to your church worker.
- Did a church staff person have an event that had to be canceled or postponed? Acknowledge their hard work by thanking them for all they did to plan and prepare for the event.

#### Other:

- While we don't know what the immediate future holds, we can consider things further in the future. If your church does a Lord's Acre or similar fundraiser where crafts are sold, is there something you could work on during this time? Could you draw or create something that you can later donate?