

BASIC RESOURCES FOR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

During COVID-19 & Beyond

TECHNOLOGY

*Remember that in this time, people need social connection more than audio or visual perfection.
Be gentle with yourself ☺*

FACEBOOK LIVE

- On the worshipping community's Facebook page. where it says "create a post" it gives you a button that says "live". Just push that.
- Be sure to check the screen orientation ahead of time.
- When finished, click it off.
- FB Live can turn into videos that can be posted on Facebook for others to watch.

ZOOM

- See other attachment on "Tips & Tricks" for using Zoom

"SIMULATED LIVE" VIDEO - *(a more technologically advanced option)*

- Make video, edit, schedule to post on FB, set as "Premier," share link.
- Benefit → Everyone gets to attend church *at the same time* in real time.
- <https://churchofflineplatform.com/> (may cost \$)
- <https://medium.com/@realmikespeer/how-to-stream-your-pre-recorded-videos-to-facebook-live-80f80126c5a8> (free version)

LICENSES – MUSIC, LYRICS & TEXT

- Check with your license provider to see if they are offering temporary extensions of music and lyric licenses for streaming during this time of COVID
- [Augsburg Fortress](#) and [OneLicense](#) have temporarily extended their licenses.
- Here is a link to songs in the public domain:
<https://songselect.ccli.com/search/results?List=publicdomain>

DONATIONS & OFFERINGS

Ways of receiving donations:

- "donate" button on website of worshipping community
- Online bill pay and/ or E-transfers from banks - It may have less overhead than online giving platforms.
- Mailing an offering check for *a month* instead of weekly. Don't lick the envelope!
- Dropping by -- with a special designated place
- ACH - Direct deposit

*Ideas gathered from questions, posts and responses from the Facebook group
["Multifaith Clergy & Spiritual Communal Responses to Covid-19"](#).*

- Set up a PayPal account to receive online donations.
- Other platforms through online giving (see below)
- If worshipping in person (we do not recommend this), DO NOT “pass the plate.” Leave offering containers in a designated spot.

Online platforms:

Search on their website for prices and plans. Some can be linked to already existing giving software; others may need to be manually inputted to be recorded.

Check with your worshiping body, denomination for other resources and recommendations.

- Vanco
- Givelify
- Breeze
- PayPal for nonprofits
- Donor Box
- Cash App
- Squarespace
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Tithe.ly - <https://get.tithe.ly/>
- Venmo
- Shelby systems
- Planning Center
- Elexio
- PushPay

Suggested Wording for Inviting Donations:

- Your offering is needed now more than ever because our work in the community is more urgent than ever...We are doing XYZ to respond...
- We are committed to paying our staff during the pandemic.
- Our in person worship gatherings have been suspended, but the mission and ministries continue. To give online, go to ... our website and click the donate button or send a check to our address.
- Your generous donations help us continue our vital ministries of hospitality, outreach, and mission in this time

ADDRESSING SPIRITUAL & PHYSICAL CONCERNS

ADDRESSING ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Webinar Link: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/on-the-topic-of-epidemics/>

Episcopal Relief & Development gathered experts to discuss social distancing and quarantine, the life-saving measures that reduce the impacts of COVID-19. Listen, as the Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-

*Ideas gathered from questions, posts and responses from the Facebook group
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White and Bishop Chilton Knudsen discuss family/partner violence, substance use and mental health as they relate to the current pandemic.

A MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Webinar Link: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/on-the-topic-of-epidemics/>

Episcopal Relief & Development hosted a conversation on March 13, 2020 about the ways ministries can continue their work while being safe. We heard from Aaron Scott, Chaplain and Organizer for [Chaplains on the Harbor](#) in the Grays Harbor, WA area and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Ni, Associate for Chinese Ministry for [The Church of Our Savior](#) in the Los Angeles, CA area. Each discussed how COVID-19 has impacted their ministry. Listen below. [Read our key takeaways.](#)

Alcoholics Anonymous – since many 12-steps groups are not about to meet in houses of worship, here are links to online meetings to direct people to:

- <https://www.onlinegroupaa.org/>
 - <http://aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>
 - <https://www.e-aa.org/>
- Encourage them to get connected and continue to work the program!

Pastoral Care – set up calls, texts and conversations. Suggestions:

- Article – [“How to Make Pastoral Visits at a Social Distance \(Template Included\)”](#) by Craig Janney, March 16, 2020. *See template below*
- Article – [“That Discomfort You’re Feeling Is Grief”](#) by Scott Berinato, *Harvard Business Law*, March 23, 2020.
- **Call Em All App** – a way to call/ text your group instantly. You could use this to send daily texts. Download at www.call-em-all.com
- **Calendly** – helps you schedule meetings on your schedule without the back-and-forth of emails. You could use this tool to set up “office hours” or 15 minute pastoral conversations, for example, to people in your congregation. www.Calendly.com
- **Doodle** – another scheduling resource. www.doodle.com

Pastor’s Phone/Video Call Check-In Template

From the article [“How to Make Pastoral Visits at a Social Distance \(Template Included\)”](#) by Craig Janney, March 16, 2020.

Hello {First Name}, it’s {Your Title} {Your Name} from {Church Name}. I’m calling to check-in on you and your family.

How are you doing? Listen and reply.

How has your routine changed lately? Listen and reply.

Ideas gathered from questions, posts and responses from the Facebook group [“Multifaith Clergy & Spiritual Communal Responses to Covid-19”](#).

Do you have everything you need? Listen and reply.

As we develop our plans for responding to the CDC and state guidelines for community gatherings, I want to be sure we are communicating to you in the best way. I already have your phone number, what is your:

- *Email address?*
- *Mailing address?*
- *Social media account?*

Right now, we will {Communicate your church's plan for worship, Bible study, etc.}.

Should anything change, we will let you know via {church's communication channels: email, website, social media, phone call, text, etc.}.

Thank you for talking with me. Before we go, I'd like to pray with you. Would that be okay?

Prayer: Our God, thank you for {First Name}. I pray that you would bless {Pronoun} today and in the days ahead. Remind {Pronoun} often that {Pronoun} is loved by {Church Name} and me. Surround {Pronoun} with your Love and care now and always. Keep {First Name} well and safe. Until we see each other again in person, shine your face and lift your countenance upon {Pronoun}, and give {Pronoun} your peace, which passes all understanding. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

It was so good to talk with you. I hope you have a great rest of your day. Please contact me if you need anything.