

Suggestions from Crucial Crisis Conversations #1 Webinar:

Recording and posting worship services on the church website is working for more people with less ability to navigate the internet.

In weekly mailings (snail mail), include news, new prayer requests and 5 Bible Trivia that are from one particular book of the Bible - gets them reading

Divide the congregation into care groups with a designated leader. There is a separate group for youth and young adults. Leaders check with each person weekly and forward special concerns to the pastor.

MissionInsite just put an email out about how to find people in the neighborhoods who are 60-75 years old. You can plot your members to see who lives near them.

Please remember copyright laws.

Put a lockbox/mail slot in office door. It's a hit!

Preside over a Love Feast. Instead of Communion

The Sunday school teachers prepared bags of crafts and stuff for the kids. We let them sit for 3 days so they are clear of the virus and then we deliver them to porches. That's what I get to do this afternoon. The kiddos are waiting and they wave and get their little bag! We're going to continue this after the virus is over because our kids like this but they aren't coming to Sunday school.

Sunday has become a different kind of Sabbath for me as pastor now that we record worship during the week and put it online. Sunday I am off work so I can restfully worship.

Phone trees. Some of my folks set up a rotation of the shut-ins, most elderly. So they get a call every day from one of 8 people. Each of us just makes 2 calls a day.

The three churches of our Parish have an evensong devotion every night at 8 PM. A short devotion and time of prayer. It has been well received. We do FACEBOOK LIVE worship at all three churches each Sunday and then send our written sermons out on our Parish Google group to reach those who don't have social media. We also reach out to those who may not be reached otherwise via telephone. We use ZOOM to continue our Bible study each week and ZOOM youth meetings.

A company called Call-em-all. You can send out a phone blast, like 120 seconds for about \$15.00 or less per month. You give them the phone numbers, record your brief messages and they blast them out all at the same time.

Anti-intuitive way of making connection: Be willing to RECEIVE help. People are wanting to help each other during this season, so be willing to receive it. Ex: Our mower died in the middle of our yard over the weekend (it's a 52" zero turn, so it doesn't move easily), and our neighbor offered to let us use his. We accepted a bit reluctantly, but now have a better relationship (and a mowed lawn!)

During on-line worship services, thank new people for joining but refer them to other resources that may be near to them as well - nice to be able to worship online but reminders of what will happen later

Online worship services probably need to be shorter than usual. We've tried to keep our to between 30 and 45 minutes.

Some restaurants are taking food to hospitals and nursing homes. We could also support those restaurants as they provide for others.

For Easter Sunday we are doing three face book live streams, Sunrise from the cemetery, normal 11 am worship and then a sunset devotion lakeside.

Delivering lilies to the driveways on Easter

Florists are getting stuck with thousands of dollars of lilies. Please consider how you can be in ministry to both the florists and your people!

If we pack items (or pick up mail), we can just plan for a three-day lag time

Jason Stanley has written great curriculum for Easter week at home.

www.jasoncstanley.com

Recording services ahead of time and uploading them to YouTube makes them easier to be sure they work. I use Facebook live all the time and it is very skippy now. I'll do both for the Sunrise service because I want it videoed live. The 11 service I'll video this week and schedule a posting of it. Sometimes it takes hours to get a video uploaded out here in slow internet land.

We have chosen to journey along with Jesus according to the gospel of Matthew positing videos reading the scriptures of the events

We have one of the Anxiety Webinars tonight (Monday, April 6) if you are interested. Email larrydavies@vaumc.org and let me know and he'll send an invitation.

We are going to apply for a forgivable Payroll Protection Program loan under the CARES Act. Our income is about 25% of what it was.

In order to encourage giving, we sent out letters with stamped envelopes. We are breaking even.