

## Pastor Zoom Calls

### Thoughts/Questions/Concerns

- Try new ways of doing things. This is not a time to worry about being perfect!
- Be in constant prayer. Maintain your daily spiritual disciplines.
- Be aware of how people are grieving, be it from loss of loved ones, isolation, loss of jobs and financial security, students unable to complete their school year (especially seniors who may not have a prom, etc.), uncertainty, and much more.
- How can we prepare for when we are allowed to gather together again?
  - We may see an increase in attendance, similar to what we experienced after 9/11. How will we handle an influx of guests? How will we welcome them?
  - How will we carry forward what we are learning and exploring with technology?
  - How will we handle the many funerals and weddings that had to be postponed?
- Be aware of scammers in this time, through texts, emails, calls, etc. Always be sure it is a legitimate source. If in doubt, check it out.

### Ministry Ideas

- **Since we will not be physically worshiping together for Easter, make the first Sunday we are back together an Easter celebration!**
- A chef cooked 100 meals and froze them to be given to those in need.
- The church serves as a host for school meal program.
- Create pen pals within the congregation.
- Mail children's packets to the kids in the congregation.
- Donate food for kids' meals and food pantry.
- Have members share stories of how God is showing up in their lives during this time.

## Little Swatara

Little Swatara has the online services Sunday and we will be doing a mid week devotional with a zoom connection for conversation. Each day we're going to offer a song and a prayer. Deacons are intentional about making calls to check in. I've also been using FB for prayers and positive posts. I invited the FB community to share a light on their porch or in the window April 1st to shine into the darkness and pray. We have the food bank in our community to help meet needs and have financial assistance if needs arise. Many have been making masks as well. Our preschool is sharing children's resources and reading books to the kids.

## Mechanic Grove

We're streaming Sunday worship using YouTube Live and using the live chat feature of that to take prayer requests for the prayer time during our service. Our YouTube channel is here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe-Y55Ux7I9RFzKrVNQ\\_lAg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe-Y55Ux7I9RFzKrVNQ_lAg)

After our service every Sunday we invite congregants to join us using Zoom for a live chat. During this time we share highs and lows, talk about where we've seen the Holy Spirit moving throughout the week, and share prayer requests and pray for one another. This has proven to be a

time that folks really, really appreciate. It lets us see everyone's smiling face, lets kids connect, feels informal and very fun each week.

I've also been using Facebook live to stream some devotional thoughts and a prayer for the congregation a couple times a week. Those have also been well received.

I know Jeff, our youth pastor, has been using Zoom to connect with students and play some games on Wednesday nights.

In terms of giving, we've been asking our members to send checks to the church. But we've also been encouraging giving online. We do that using the built in online giving module for Breeze.

## **Mountville**

First of all we made the leap to YouTube worship and have been posting a service every Saturday evening. WE have never done this so we've had to learn a lot very fast. We are trying to enhance a little bit with each week. I also email the link to the service as well as our prayer list (which I do not say on camera) to those in our congregation who have email. For those who are not connected to the internet, we send a written copy of the announcements, the scripture, sermon, and prayer by snail mail on Monday or Tuesday.

I send a Wednesday email to everyone with updated announcements and something inspirational.

Because we are not having Love Feast, we have decided to offer a daily devotion each day of Holy Week. Five members of our congregation and I are preparing a brief devotion based on one of the lectionary scriptures for each day. Their devotion is video-recorded and then will be posted to YouTube the evening prior to their particular morning. Some have recorded themselves on their phones and emailed it. Others are being recorded at church or home, keeping a safe distance away from each other. We made the recording part optional but everyone has been happy to do that. And I am thrilled because seeing each other's faces is really important right now and has more impact than just emailing something written.

To that end, I have invited folks to send me pictures of what they are doing in this time of staying at home. And I've gotten many. I've put them in a slide show which I'll be emailing to all those who have email. It has brought smiles to MY face each time I receive a picture from someone. And best of all one of our slides includes a picture of a sonogram as one couple's way of announcing a new family member on the way.

We are preparing postcards to be sent to the members who do not have email during Holy Week. We got a link to some free downloads that are very capable secretary is using to make them. I prepared a message of my own to print on the back of the card.

## **Palmyra**

The Palmyra Church of the Brethren has been very busy in response to the COVID 19 outbreak. Fortunately, we had just updated our church computers that allow our staff to work remotely.

- Every congregant has been contacted to check in with them and to access what needs they might have and what avenue the church should use to stay in contact with them. For those folks that don't have computers, we have made sure that they are getting our communications from other members.
- We have compiled a resource document that we posted on our website [www.palmyracob.org](http://www.palmyracob.org) that gives information on grocery store hours/delivery options, pharmacy hours/delivery options, banking hours, and government agencies for assistance with unemployment, rent, utilities, insurance etc.
- We have a team in place to assist with grocery shopping for folks that can't get out. So far no one has needed this service.
- We have kept our facility open for AA and Al-Anon to continue to meet responsibly.
- We have emailed and posted on our website and our facebook page daily announcements and devotions written by congregants and staff.
- We have emailed and posted on our website and our facebook page a link to a virtual worship service every Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
- We are working on a video for Easter to help connect our congregants. Our goal is to get as many congregants filmed waving to each other. We have asked congregants to send us pictures and videos and staff are filming congregants waving from their doors.
- We have daily zoom staff meetings.
- We have set up for our board and teams to meet via zoom.
- Kids' programs have included
  - Mailed lesson materials and cards.
  - Working on YouTube videos to make available to our children.
  - Doing ZOOM lessons with preschool through grade 5.
- The Youth are receiving a "Weekly Connect". If the youth complete the activity, they are mailed a prize. Youth who participate every week will receive a special prize when the youth meet again.

## **Parker Ford**

One of the things that has been very life-giving at Parker Ford Church during the crisis has been an "adoption" list we created a few weeks ago. Our leadership team created a list of individuals and families within our congregation who were most at risk (financially, physically, spiritually, and emotionally). We then reached out to various families and individuals in the congregation to "adopt" one of the at risk families or individuals for the duration of the crisis. This means they make regular phone calls to the person to talk with them, as well as, making sure all of their various needs are being cared for. This has worked out incredibly well. It took a lot of organizational work on the front end, but it has provided a level of care for these families and individuals that is much more thorough and intimate than I (and our leadership team) would have been able to offer had we tried to cover it ourselves. Even better, it is the body empowered, equipped, and serving.

We created a video clip about Love Feast for this Sunday, as it had been scheduled for Palm Sunday. In addition to the video clip I'm doing, we also plan to distribute this home service (attached) as a resource to our membership. While it can't replace Love Feast, under the circumstances we are praying it will cause families to more deeply consider the meaning of this ordinance as well as bring them more closely together.

## **Providence**

We established Slack connections for every member of our congregation. This has been such a blessing for us in sharing announcements, sharing joys, concerns and prayer requests, posting recordings of messages, etc. I can't even tell you how important and beneficial Slack has been.

Since the shutdown, one of our congregants lent us their Go To Meeting Site, where they established a 'room' for Providence. Now, every Wednesday night, our prayer group meets via Go To Meeting. We used to get 3 or 4 of us out to the church on a Wednesday night, now we're getting at least 15-16 people every Wednesday night – and growing!

We have not yet done a full service online, but we are using Facebook Live to deliver the message each week. Facebook Live allows us to record them and post them to our Facebook page so that others can view them. We also post them to our website [www.providencecob.org](http://www.providencecob.org) under the media tab. Also, we're able to post them directly to Slack for any of our members who might have missed and don't have Facebook.

## **Springfield**

For all those who have access to the internet, I am prerecording messages and posting them to our website along with other videos to create a service of sorts. It's been very well received so far. We are also doing Bible Study via Zoom, which is working okay. For those without internet, I am doing a weekly mailing that features announcements and a cleaned up (basically I take notes and make them into a readable manuscript) manuscript of my sermon. We've also begun to do our newsletter again. We email it as a pdf to those with internet and mail the rest. We have about 19 households we're mailing to at this point. As far as ministering to the people's other needs, we have been using primarily phone. Bucks county has been doing shelter at home for over a week and Berks just picked it up, so phone, and sending cards and letters, as well as email.