

"Options for Celebrating Communion During a Virtual Worship Service"

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Tip # 1 – Your usual first Sunday Communion Service could be RESCHEDULED for another time, after we can worship in-person again.

The tradition of 1st Sunday Communion is a relatively new one. During the early days of both Methodism and of the CME Church, it was not uncommon for churches to only have communion once every three months or longer or whenever the circuit rider/preacher could get to each local church.

Tips #2 – If you decide to include Communion in your virtual worship experience, PRE-PLANNING and extra efforts will be necessary.

Tip #3 – First, if your Stewardess are in the high-risk group, DO NOT ask them to assist. Figure out how to do it yourself. *Bread and wine/juice that have to be touched or could be touched by others should NOT be used.*

Tip #4 – Self-serve (all-in-one) communion cups are recommended. Of course, once you have purchased them, you will have to figure out how to get them into the hands of the members WITHOUT touching the cups yourself!

Option – deliver them during the week, along with a prayer card or some other inspirational message and instructions on how to participate in the virtual service.

Option – have a drive-thru time for members to pick them up for their family or consider having a drive-in service and serve people in their cars (take precautions to maintain social distancing as you hand out the elements).

Tip #5 – Since the elements of bread and wine are SYMBOLIC of the body and blood of Christ, members could be asked to use their own bread and drink as you pray the Prayer of Consecration during the virtual service. (This video talks about this beginning at the 1:45 minute mark - <https://youtu.be/mAEzjTSwdgl>)

Tip #6 – Shorten the ritual to include the invitation, the prayer of consecration, the Lord's prayer, the words of forgiveness and the sending forth.

Tip #7 – Don't forget the sick and shut in, even if it means doing the ritual by telephone with them, with them using their own elements.

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