
Doing Ministry in a Time of Social Distancing: **Engaging in Community**

Seven Areas of Ministry to Consider (more videos and resources to come on these topics)

1. Tech Solutions for Worship - See video discussion with Kevin Presseault and Tom Haines
2. Giving and Income
3. Caring for the Vulnerable
- 4. Engaging in Community - Today's video and written resource**
5. Making the Most of your Time: Opportunities for Prayer and Personal Development
6. Outreach
7. Activities for People

Introduction: Engaging in Community

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25

With the loss of physical gatherings in our churches, it is vital to help our people to be in Christian fellowship, for their physical and spiritual health.

Six Suggestions for Helping your People to Engage in Community with Fellow Believers

1. *Make pastoral phone calls* to your church phone list.
2. After your initial calls, *train other leaders* in your church to do *congregational care calls*.
 - Train them how to pray for people on the phone - give them sample prayers.
 - Teach them helpful Scripture passages to share with people.
 - Teach them questions to ask to show care and interest.
 - Teach them to ask for prayer requests.
 - Ask them to report back to you with any urgent needs.
3. *Utilize Technology* such as ZOOM video and encourage small groups, prayer groups, leadership teams, and other groups to meet online.
 - Create a team of people to help those who are less tech-savvy with technology.
4. *Send out regular communications* from the church, via email, facebook, website, etc...
 - Let them know of opportunities for them to connect in the life of the church.
 - Let them know you are praying for them.
 - Invite them to respond to you personally - some will!
5. *Host online Devotionals and Chats* - Facebook live is a great tool for connecting personally from your home into your peoples' homes, as they can comment and interact with you. It is encouraging for them to see your face as a representative of the church, seeking to encourage and feed them with the Word.
6. *Update your Church Database* - You need current information to connect with your people and help them connect with others, so you may need to chase down updated phone numbers, emails, and other contact information.

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