

Resources for Your Church to Use in Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

These are challenging and unprecedented times in our lives, but God is with us! I know that this is true because I have seen the clergy and laity on this district, and all around East Ohio, step up in so many new and courageous ways! My heart is bursting with JOY because of the good work that is being done in the name of Jesus Christ by so many of you. You are living witnesses to the power of God to overcome, and I give thanks always and everywhere for your faithfulness!

You are learning to do things you have never done before...Facebook videos, livestreaming, virtual worship services, online prayer vigils, zoom conferencing, face timing, and more! As your DS I have also been pushed and stretched in ways I have never experienced! In the midst of all that is happening God is moving us beyond our capabilities so that we trust in his abilities. We may be limited but we serve a limitless God! Praise be to God!

Now more than ever we need each other! If you don't know how to vlog, video, livestream, do virtual worship, zoom, Instagram, tweet or text, reach out and ask! Ask another clergy colleague! Call a co-worker. Ask the district office! Text teens and young adults. Do you have members who don't know how to use Facebook? I bet they are willing to learn. Give tutorials.

My 81-year-old mother **never used** Facebook, **didn't want to use** Facebook and **didn't even like the idea of using** Facebook **UNTIL** her church went live on Facebook and she didn't want to miss it! She suddenly had a heart to learn how to navigate Facebook, and she learned! She discovered it wasn't hard and it connected her to the church she loves.

So let's help each other! If you want to learn about livestream worship services, contact any of the churches/pastors listed below. They are doing it! Some are even learning on the job.

In the rapidly expanding industry of social media platforms, apps and digital interaction, there are many options available for networking. Three Rivers is not promoting one company over another, we are simply listing the ones we or other churches have used. You can google "social platforms" and get an inbox of suggestions. These articles [65+ Social Networking Sites You Need to Know About](#), and [50+ Social Media Sites You Need to Know in 2020](#) topped my search.

The next page list churches providing online services with active links to jump you straight to their church websites and Facebook pages.

Blessings and peace during these times of growth and opportunity,
Rev. Ed Fashbaugh, Three Rivers DS

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These churches are providing recorded/livestreamed Sunday worship services on their Facebook pages, Youtube Channels and/or church websites. Many of these are archived and can be viewed at your convenience. Some churches are also offering daily videos of encouragement, worship music, prayer, and Bible study.

[Adamsville FB](#) (Pastor Pamela Lashley)
[Canal Lewisville FB](#) (Pastor Wes George)
[Christ UMC](#) (Newcomerstown) (Rev. B. Foster)
Conesville ([Jeff Calkins](#))—using personal FB page
[Fredericktown FB](#) (Rev. Richard Hasley)
[Grace FB](#) (Coshocton) (Rev. Tim McCollum)
[Green Valley FB](#) (Rev. Tom Bolton)
[Isleta FB](#) / [Fresno FB](#) (Pastor Dan Eggan)
[Killbuck FB](#) / (Pastor Ken Smalles)

[Kimbolton FB](#) (Pastor Eddie Warne)
Loudonville (Rev. [Steve Sullivan](#)) using personal FB
[Moreland FB](#) (Rev. Steve Smith)
[Nellie Chapel FB](#) (Pastor Ashley McMillin)
[Roscoe](#) (Rev. Dale Sutton)
[Plainfield FB](#) /Orange (Pastor John Armstrong)
[Utica](#) (Pastor Jason Snyder)
[Waterford FB](#) (Rev. David Baker)
[West Lafayette](#) (Pastor Matt Anderson)

OTHER WAYS OF REACHING OUT:

Church/pastor names shared as resources if you want more information on these various ideas.

- **Sunday Radio messages:**

[Loudonville](#) (Rev. Steve Sullivan) can be heard on Tuesdays at 11am on WZLP FM 95.7

[Prairie Chapel](#) (Pastor Dail Parrish) can be heard on Sundays at 7:30am on WTNS FM 99.3

[Coshocton Grace](#) (Rev. Tim McCollum) can be heard on Sundays at 10am on WTNS FM 99.3

- **Daily phone calls:** one-on-one calls or use a phone tree with groups a leader
- **E-mail daily devotions**
- **Online Bible studies** through various social platforms
- **Create Digital groups:** Invite your church community to stay in touch via interactive apps like [Band](#), [Viber](#) or [WhatsApp](#). Private groups can be created on most social platforms like Instagram and Facebook .
- **Churches serving as drop-off/pick-up locations** for food distribution.
- **Manuscript of Sermon Text:** post on church website
- **Newsletters via snail mail** (include a stamped envelope for member to easily reply).
- **Re-post other UMC or community services** to your website or FB (Get permission first)
- **Prayer Vigils:** Jelloway (Pastor Ruth Douglas) using Facebook
NCT Christ (Rev. Foster) using Doodle (<https://doodle.com/en/>) to schedule times
West Lafayette (Rev. Matt Anderson) using [ZOOM](#),

These churches are doing creative work to keep in touch with their congregations. If you are reaching out in a new way, by a means you never thought of before, let the district office know. We will add it to this growing list. **The point is this:** if you want to know how to connect with your members and neighbors but don't know how, then call a pastor. (District Directory can be viewed [here](#).) I know they will be more than willing to assist you in connecting in new ways.