Covina-19: School’s Out!

**Virtual Response**
We are looking at creating virtual support responses. For updated information, please make sure you "like" and "follow" one/both of these Facebook Pages: Ministries Across Generations: [https://www.facebook.com/ministriesacrossgen/](https://www.facebook.com/ministriesacrossgen/) and DYMN (Disciples Youth Ministry Network): [https://www.facebook.com/DYMNetwork/](https://www.facebook.com/DYMNetwork/). Once a majority of schools are closed, we will lead daily online gatherings. We will share videos, ideas, and insights.

4. Youth, YA and Children Leaders
EVERY Monday, 2:30 pm (EST)
NEW! We have decided to continue to host a “Leader” gathering for the next few weeks. The ideas, insights, and connection was great!
[Join Zoom Meeting, https://us04web.zoom.us/j/987027306, Meeting ID: 987 027 306](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/987027306)

3. Youth, Young Adults, & Leaders Online Faith Discussion,
EVERY Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm (EST)
[Join Zoom Meeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/795411254, Meeting ID: 795 411 254](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/795411254)

2. Family, Children, & Leaders Activity Online Faith
EVERY Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 am - 11:30 am (EST),
[Join Zoom Meeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/180165166, Meeting ID: 180 165 166](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/180165166)

1. 20 Minute Family Worship & Wonder
EVERY Sunday at 12:45 pm (EST)
[Join Zoom Meeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/518674137, Meeting ID: 518 674 137](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/518674137)

Get Ready to Worship—at Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ways to Worship</th>
<th>Music: Dancing, Playing, and Singing (Simple Option: Jesus Loves Me)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Find a worship song to share, YouTube music video, or instrumental song.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prayer: Write, color, and share concerns, celebrations, thanks, and current events. Do not forget some may need silence and space. Others may need to hold hands or a prayer cloth for kinesthetic comfort. Figure out what works for your family to talk to God.</td>
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<td>Story: Packet and Bible Stories, Scripture Readings, Current Events, God Sightings, Etc.</td>
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<td>Blessings: A reminder that God goes with us after this time together - in all that we do.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ways to Get Ready</th>
<th>Light a candle to be reminded of the presence of God.</th>
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<td>Set out the items needed: (scripture, materials, and clear space)</td>
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<td>Take time to remind each other how to be respectful in this time.</td>
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<td>Listen or engage in music. (Slow it down towards the end.)</td>
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<td>Take a deep breath. Remember not to rush. This is important time.</td>
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<th>Parts of Worship</th>
<th>Greetings/Hospitality</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Sharing of Stories</td>
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<td>Communion and Offering</td>
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<td>Going Forth/Blessings</td>
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Use the ideas above alongside the materials in the box to walk through these four steps and create an experience that works for those present.
The rise of the COVID-19 creates a complex set of questions about how humans participate and experience life in relationship to one another. This conversation is changing by the hour. The church is called to respond to the "least of these," but systemic issues around poverty, race, and economics forces us to have difficult conversations about the best ways to serve the many who are put in an even more difficult situations as this pandemic closes what for many is the only affordable child-care option. **These are faith-based conversations.**

We recognize that many children and teenagers may be heading home to empty houses because the threat of COVID-19 is a lot less than the loss of a paycheck.

We recognize that the grandparents at higher risk are the ones who are going to be called upon to watch the children.

We recognize that many schools and local charities will need to close their doors and shut out access to affordable food, and sanitation.

We recognize that many church-based child-care facilities are not insured to cover long-term closings, and have a different set of legal standards.

We recognize this is a complex conversation in a complex world. Our goal is not to spread germs, but our love of Jesus in a world of harsh realities must respond to the "least of these."

*If you can stay home... stay home. If you can help others stay in clean and safe areas when other options are more damaging to the "least" of these, then think and pray through the best ways to help. Recognize that while we may not gather in one form, that other forms may be options with the correct safety measures and conversations.*

**Plan Ahead and Be Ready:**

**Emergency Caretakers:**
- **GIANT LIST OF IDEAS FOR BEING HOME WITH KIDS**
- Make rules and boundaries for those in the house based on the previous article.
- All people like to know a schedule and boundaries.
- Make a plan to help keep organized based on those in your household.
• Check out our Safety Information: https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/safety-resources, and get waivers.
• Check out our Pinterest Boards: https://www.pinterest.com/disciplesfcm/ for faith-based activities.

(Feeling overwhelmed? Yeah... I hear ya!) But many of us who work with children, youth, and young adults are more "tech savvy" and prepared to make faithful connections over WiFi. In fact... many of us were made for such a time as this!

• Help other leaders understand the safety measures needed with placing/streaming things on the internet.

Technology and Social Media: https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/safety-basic-7
• Use text messaging resources (but in groups) to help keep your teenagers and others connected and in conversation.
• It is time to put all those Facebook pages and online meeting resources to a different level of use.
• Here are some free videos and resources from our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL10TN4Jh_3Pa0wEGXTeFSg/featured to continue to keep faithful interactions going.

Children:
Daniel Tiger: How to Talk to Kids About Corona Virus: https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus

Teenagers:
When teenagers ask, "Why aren't we in school?" or say, "This is awesome (being out of school)... or dumb (being out of school)... or whatever!"
If you know a college student trying to get home or in need of a home, help them find their way safely.

Plan "Coffee-Dates:" (Make sure to have a social media/virtual policy or understanding that will keep all safe.) Check out Sign-Up Genius.
Education at Home:

20 Online Learning Resources to Get You through Coronavirus School Closures
20 Virtual Field Trips to Take with Your Kids

Schools are planning for closing, but not all households or school systems will be able to provide the same type of access and accountability. If libraries are closed and a kid does not have access to a computer, they may be limited to online options. If an adult is not present to help or does not know the material, it may be even more complicated.

Celebrating the Coronavirus Quarantine
- Get creative and look around... really look... to see who may need help and how you or your church may be able to help them.
- Were you a teacher? Does your church have Wi-Fi? Anyone have an old computer?

Virtual Lent, Easter, and Worship at Home
There are already resources throughout this website, and we will continue to share online worship. Here are a few of the other pages that will help you worship and home. Plus, we have talented pastors who are sharing with us their ways of reaching families,
- Current resources: Day to Day, Faith at Home, Liturgical Resources, Children’s Books... and more!
- Moving Faith Formation Online: Platforms for Virtual Communication
- Playing School at Home by Carolyn Brown
- Methodist Online Resources: Deep Blue Bible Online

Safety and Care and Resources
As your faith community and leaders begin to look around and respond to the various needs, and the needs of those displaced from schools, our ministry team finds it important to keep you informed of the risks, options, and insights. We do not take legal liability for the choices of your community, but we do take responsibility for the need to provide some quality safety options.

Liability: If any risk is not something for you or your community, then do not do it. There are many ways to "be the church" in this time.

If you serve in a community that may need its doors to be open when other doors are closed, then we want to make sure you are aware of some basic safety measures for interacting with those under 18 in any facility. You may want to consult with an attorney before hosting anything in your facility to make sure you are following state protocol.
- Connect with other churches, school systems, health/emergency agencies and resources in your community. There may be other places prepared to respond and need volunteers, food donations, or cleaning supplies.
- Review the protocols of your church, school district, health organizations, and state before taking any action.
- Take a look at your insurance policies (specifically your child safety policies) before inviting anyone into the church building.
• Make sure you have waivers for any interaction with someone under 18. (Even in the home.)
• All adults should have background checks, and if caring for other peoples’ children, there should be at least two adults present if possible. (Following this measure in the home is also important at this time as people care for other’s children.)
• If school is out, you may have teachers who can help with the educational or care needs in your community.
• All appropriate food handling and bathroom protocols should be followed. Check you state regulations.
• (Just in case you missed it) Wash hands, wash hands again, and help keep everything clean.
• Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
• Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly.
• Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning.

The Insurance Board: https://www.insuranceboard.org/
The Insurance Board has a ministry that helps all churches with safety. They provide numerous resources, and insights for each state. If you have any questions or safety concerns, please e-mail the insurance board. (For more information from the denomination: https://disciples.org/dns/disciples-and-covid-19/)