

Faith Formation Leader Zoom, March 18, 2020

Ideas and Questions:

Time of opportunity!

- This can be a time for promoting intentionality, faith formation, a time to deepen our walks with Christ.
- Perhaps this can be a “sabbatical” from church—or at least the ways that church is always done. Consider suspending meetings, etc. inviting people instead to reflect and pray.
- This can be a time for renewal—Embrace! Explore! Experiment! (then reflect—what worked, what didn’t?) What do we want to carry forward even after this time of quarantine is over?
- We have the opportunity to find new ways of moving forward—new ways of doing/being church. New ways of engaging people in and out of the congregation. Some of these ways we will leave behind when things get back to “normal”—but some we might want to keep!
- We can try new things without fear. If something doesn’t work—try something else!
- Opportunity to examine our own work—how well do the routine things that we do each week connect people to God and to each other? How can we use this time to explore new ways of connecting and/or thinking about connecting?
- Encourage parents to find ways to celebrate the little things and protect the home space during this time—There are so many small ways to add “formation” to family life—so that children remember the quarantine, not as something terrible, but as an adventure when they knew they were loved!
 - Sing together!
 - Read Bible stories
 - Find a routine

Using Zoom for Faith Formation:

- Adult Sunday School (pretty self explanatory)
- Children’s Sunday School
 - lesson/story/discussion, probably no games or activities
 - probably can’t have during adults meeting—children need supervision and/or help using zoom?
- Zoom for Worship—at one church, children got on early—used the time to goof off and say hello to people—Best part of the service!!
- Youth group via Zoom—using the time to process what’s going on in the world—share and pray together
 - if works, expand to other age groups
- Anabaptist Prayer Book-maybe several times a week those who want to could gather via zoom to do the Anabaptist prayer book together. Maybe take laptop into the sanctuary so that it feels more like people are “at church” and doing something “set apart.” Recentering.
- Catechism class via Zoom + online videos, etc. with parents.
- **REMINDER to use child-safety rules when emailing or texting (or zooming) children/ youth! There are appropriate ways to do this (through parents) or through special apps**

that allow parents to monitor what is going on. You should not be texting/emailing/zooming children or teenagers without their parents knowledge and consent!

- Even people who don't use much technology can join zoom calls (with a paid account)—they can still participate!

Connecting in person:

- What ways are there to connect in person while maintaining an appropriate social distance?
 - spaced out throughout sanctuary to watch a movie
 - spaced out in a circle on the church lawn—can we have a conversation that way? (youth groups, hymn sings, etc.)

Other ways of connecting for faith formation:

- mom pep-talk on facebook—“You are going to be ok!”
- Resources for families on church website
- Resources for families/adults/leaders on CPMC website (centralplainsmc.org) (Should be available by Thursday afternoon at the latest) Email me with more resource suggestions!
- Mail out Sunday School lessons (Shine)
- Visit elderly folks through the window—maybe talk to them on the phone at the same time
- Send letters and cards (creative acts of kindness!)
- Email out a “FaithTalk” talking point to families—many little REMINDERS for parents to do faith formation!
- Send out Children's bulletins to families
- Pre-tape a Bible study or choir performance for local access cable channel or youtube.