



10 WAYS TO SHEPHERD WELL THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC

Rev. Fred A. Hartley, III
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Jesus promised, "I will build my church and the gates of hell [or the coronavirus] shall not prevail against it" Matthew 16:18. The current global pandemic is testing what the Church is made out of. These days can actually be used by God to bring the best out of Christ's Church!

1. **Provide DECISIVE leadership.** A leader must have an accurate view of reality. Every lead pastor must help their people maintain not only an accurate view of the world around them, but an even clearer perspective on the higher reality of Christ, His word, and His kingdom. None of us have ever led our people through a pandemic, but it's time to step up and embrace this divine assignment. Lead with hope. Lead with confidence. Lead with joy. Lead with courage. Lead with clarity. Lead with love. Shepherd well.
2. **Implement ONLINE worship.** Either Facebook Livestream your service, or video record it, post it to YouTube and then post to your church website. Send a link by email to your church family each week. If you need help with this, please call our College of Prayer office today at (770) 829-0122.
3. **Increase COMMUNICATION.** Since churches will not be printing Sunday programs/bulletins, online communication is more important than ever. Increase congregation wide emails. Also increase communication with your leadership and ministry teams.
4. **Raise the PRAYER level.** There is a wave of prayer coming across our nation right now. Not only are Christians praying more, even pagans want to pray. Take advantage of this moment, and give more prayer leadership to your people.
5. **Tighten the net of congregational CARE.** This is a perfect opportunity to initiate a phone team--a group of people whom you train to call every person in your congregation. They will introduce themselves by name, tell them they are calling in order to better love and care for them, and ask if there is anything needed during this crisis. Before the phone call ends, lead in a prayer of blessing.
6. **Boldly ask your people to continue giving their OFFERINGS to God and give clear guidance.** Encourage direct deposit, online giving, mailing the offering to the church, or personally drop it off at the church during business hours. You may even want to install a secure dropbox outside your church office that is serviced two or three times a day.
7. **Equip FAMILIES.** Now that most schools are canceled, many parents are pulling their hair out with what to do for their energetic children. It is easy for church leaders to send online Christian resources for families to use at home with their own children.
8. **Validate SMALL GROUP gatherings.** While we certainly want to protect all elderly and at-risk members, at this moment we still have freedom to meet safely with a few people at a time. For small groups that cannot meet together, they can have virtual meetings utilizing simple technology, or even just the telephone.

9. **Activate your SERVICE BRIGADE and increase BENEVOLENCE.** Nothing gives the Church greater credibility than meeting human need. No matter where you are located, obvious felt needs will increase over the next few weeks. Find a need and meet it. Offer to purchase and deliver groceries to elderly members who do not feel comfortable leaving their homes. Children that are not receiving school lunches, offer to provide. Install and promote a PRAYER HOTLINE for people in your church family and in the neighborhood to call daily. Get creative. New service opportunities will increase every week.
10. **Utilize TECHNOLOGY.** Since we are no longer able to meet with large groups, it is essential for us to utilize technology. Zoom. Skype. WhatsApp. Facebook Livestream. Find what works for you. While we cannot meet face-to-face, we must not allow this virus to shut down connection points.

Our College of Prayer team loves you. We are here to serve you. We are in this together. These are challenging days that give the church unique opportunities to shine in Jesus' name. We are praying for you.

Get more great resources for spiritual growth at www.collegeofprayer.org.
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