

Youth Ministry in this Time of Physical Distancing

April 7, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Ideas from MCEC Youth Ministers/Workers/Sponsor

- Communicate with individual youth or as a group using Zoom, Instagram, Facebook messaging, etc. Zoom allows the host to choose breakout groups of a certain number to facilitate dialogue in small groups.
- Cup cake decorating while online with each other – materials were prepared ahead and dropped off beforehand.
- Sharing “Rose (highs), Thorn (lows) and Buds (growth)” over Zoom
- Each youth builds a blanket fort and shares from their fort over Zoom. Gives a virtual tour of their fort as they share highs and lows.
- Yoga online together
- Watch Netflix together
- For low tech games, *Pictionary* or *Mafia* can be played while on Zoom with the host being the person who messages individuals with the clues to play.
- Youth have more time so they added a Bible study online as well as maintaining the regular youth event time to connect online.
- Important to connect with youth individually as well as with the whole group
- Youth make their own bingo card and then the host calls out the letter and number
- Bible scavenger hunt: They read a verse given by the host and then have to find something in their house that connects with the verse. They explain why they chose that item. Send out prizes like Uber Eats gift card.
- Musical potluck: Each participant chooses a music video to share and explains why the song is meaningful to them.
- Send out care packages or leave them at doorsteps. Can be to youth in the group or youth make them for seniors who are isolated as well as making encouraging cards to include in the packages.
- At the end of connecting over Zoom, leave the youth with a challenge to do that week, like connecting with someone they haven’t connected with for a while.
- Bible study on lament, grief and anxiety to open conversations about how youth are feeling in order to validate their feelings of grief. Have youth also share good things they have heard or experienced and name glimpses of hope.
- Explore spiritual disciplines that can be shared with youth to help them reflect like guided meditation, memes and sharing Bible verses.

Online Resources:

- [“Praise Song for the Pandemic”](#) is a beautifully created visual liturgy to share for worship or reflection to get youth to talk about what they are experiencing in physical isolation as well as seeing the good in how people are helping each other.
- Looking for some resources and ideas to share for the Easter weekend? Check out the [“Holy Week at Home Resources”](#) by Talashia Keim Yoder, a pastor of family ministry at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana.
- [The Meeting House](#) regularly makes available their online materials for Sunday School or Bible studies with junior youth and senior youth in mind.
- [Over 100 Bible studies for youth put together by Mennonite and Anabaptist leaders, students, professors and pastors](#) are available for you to use. With challenging content that dives into the Bible in significant ways, this project brought together the gifts and insights of many writers deeply rooted in working with youth.
- [The Bible Project](#) has created free videos and podcasts to be used as teaching tools for youth and junior youth. They are well researched, with great insights, if you are looking for a different way to explore scripture that is Anabaptist compatible.
- How are you doing youth ministry during this pandemic? [Steve Argue](#) suggests we need to look at what the pastoral care needs of youth are and consider how to creatively be there for them. He encourages us not to be silent but to be a continuous voice of hope in their lives through a dedicated group space where they can share their thoughts and prayers with each other.
- Blog by Brad F. Griffin, [“Naming Loss and Gratitude with Young People in These Uncertain Days”](#) challenges us to do more than move youth events online. Youth need us to help them name and process their feelings and grief around their experiences of our new world.

Games to play online that allow you to chat as a group while you play:

- [Card games](#)
- [Kahoot Trivia game](#)
- [Jack Box Games, Drawful2](#)
- [The Resistance online](#)
- [Wiki Racing](#). To play this without logging onto a game platform, pick 2 words and find how many links it takes to get from one word to the other