

Weekly Connection

This week a number of us from the EMC National office have been calling or e-mailing leaders of our EMC churches to ask how their church and communities are faring during this time of uncertainty. Many leaders are grappling with unique challenges in their communities; and many are investigating new ways of being the church while connecting innovatively. There have been many creative and interesting ideas that have emerged out of these conversations. We have put together some of these ideas on a [webpage](#).

Prayer

The Global Evangelical Church is organizing a [day of prayer](#) and fasting for our communities, our country, and all the peoples of the world for March 29. What a great opportunity for the global church to unite in asking God to intervene on behalf of a global pandemic. Other parts of the Christian Church are also calling for times of prayer (and sometimes fasting). All EMC churches and members are praying about local and global needs.

Zoom Meeting for EMC Youth Pastors

Here's what's happening on Sunday evening, March 29, at 7 p.m. (CDT): a Zoom meeting hosted by the National Youth Committee for all EMC youth pastors, leaders, and volunteers. We will spend time together in community, encourage one another in our isolation, share creative ideas leaders have been using to stay connected to their students, and pray for one another. An e-mail is being sent out to all youth leaders with the meeting info; contact your churches youth leader or Gerald Reimer for the connection information.

Updating Websites

If it has not happened already, consider updating your website to explain how physical services have been postponed and how people can connect through virtual services. Are visitors welcome? This is a key time when on-line or virtual "walk-in" visitors may seek help.

Health Messages

Some of the health recommendations are well known; social distancing, hand washing, etc. However, for others, there are discrepancies from government officials. Some say that everyone should stay home, but the laws only require that groups can meet if they are under a particular threshold. Our recommendation, when asked, would be to err on the side of caution while still doing what we can to serve our neighbours and to protect the Body of Christ and wider society.

Links

Our website now includes the [resources](#) previously mentioned for being the church in a different way, [stories](#) of what some EMC churches are doing and weekly video devotionals by Conference Pastor Layton Friesen, which can be found on our [website](#) or [Vimeo](#) page.

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