
50 CREATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS DURING COVID

1. **Care Packages:** Deliver care packages with essentials to church members who are quarantining or deliver them just for fun!
2. **Secret Saint:** Just like Secret Santa, invite members to participate in the fun. Assign each participant a "Secret Saint" and let them share some joy with their person by sending e-cards, putting items in the mail, or even doing some sneaky doorstep drop-offs!
3. **Congregational Newsletter:** Create a newsletter with articles, recipes, pictures, testimonies and more from congregational members.
4. **Virtual Talent Show:** Use Zoom to set up a virtual talent show so members can connect, have fun, and learn more about each other's strengths.
5. **FlipGrid Video Testimonies & Sharing:** Set up a free account on [FlipGrid](#). Record a discussion prompt and then have congregational members respond by posting their own video. Great for daily/weekly devotionals or just for fun!
6. **Bible Scavenger Hunt:** Set up a drop-in scavenger hunt using Bible verses at a local park. Once members complete the hunt, they can get a prize from the goody table before they leave.
7. **Digital Scavenger Hunt:** Set up a free scavenger hunt using the app [GooseChase](#). Participants complete the tasks, upload their submissions to the app, and gain points. The people with the highest point totals receive something fun in the mail!
8. **Craft Night:** Organize a craft night by dropping off or sending materials in the mail. Do the craft together over Zoom or have member post pics of their creations to the congregational Facebook page, in the newsletter, etc.
9. **Trivia Game:** Set up a free trivia game online through [Kahoot](#). Participants can log into the game from their computer from home and play it individually or use Zoom to have everyone play together at a specific time!

10. **Community Meals:** Wearing masks and gloves, prepare meals that can be picked up by people under a canopy near the street.
11. **Food Pantries:** Donate funds to food pantries who package and distribute food outside their buildings by trained volunteers.
12. **Group Meetings:** Recovery groups that meet in churches are restricting group sizes and meeting in larger rooms or outside where distancing can be arranged.
13. **Daycare Resources:** Daycares for children in churches have closed their facilities, but are helping parents network to share childcare. They are letting families check out daycare resources to use at home and are providing information about online resources.
14. **Clothing Closets:** Church clothes closets and lending resources are limiting their hours of availability and the number of people who can be in the space at any one time. Take calls about what is needed, package it and bring it out of the building for pick-up.
15. **Drive In Service:** Hold a drive-in service in an open field or an old parking lot. Use a radio transmitter to send the sound to people's vehicles. [More info here.](#)
16. **Drive Up Communion:** With priesthood using masks and gloves, invite congregation members to drive-thru to be served communion.
17. **Picnic Service:** Use an open field for the service and have families sit together with groups spaced out 6 feet or more.
18. **Prayer Tree:** Designate a tree on the church's property as a prayer tree, preferably one with lots of easy-to-reach branches. Cut strips of cloth and have participants write prayer concerns with Sharpie markers on the cloth and then tie it to a branch of the tree. This could be a weekend activity or could span several weeks in which members stop by at various times to add to the tree or pray at the tree.
19. **Community-Wide Blood Drive:** Support your local blood bank or organize a Bloodmobile coming to your church's parking lot.
20. **Historic Sites:** Lead members on a virtual tour of the [Kirtland Temple](#) and engage children in learning more about the history of the church through stories, coloring page, mazes, etc. from the [Historic Sites Foundation](#).
21. **Project Church:** Use the free platform [SignUpGenius](#) to have members sign up for projects and work needed around the church to be completed on various days. Families can then choose a day from the list that works for them to complete the project. This is a great activity to do as you are preparing to reopen your congregation!
22. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Deliver the makings for an easter egg hunt to your children's homes. Have them post pictures of the fun to on your congregational social media spaces.
23. **1-2-3 Serve!** Plan for each small group or family in the church to engage in a community service or evangelism project on the same day, blitzing the entire community with good works in Jesus' name. Post pictures of the good works on your congregational social media spaces.

24. **Friend Day:** Encourage every member to write a card or send an encouraging message to a friend.
25. **Outdoor Movie:** Host an outdoor movie night with plenty of room for social distancing!
26. **Outdoor Concert:** Invite the community to a free outdoor concert on the church lawn.
27. **Thank Local Heroes:** Do a drive-by parade with banners and balloons for local heroes such as firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and others. Alternatively, drop off a thank you card and a basket of goodies to their locations.
28. **Snacks for Teacher Workday:** Select a local school, prepare and deliver baskets of snacks with a note of thanks and a prayer for the school year.
29. **Digital Group Greeting Cards:** Use [Group Greeting](#) to have multiple people sign a digital card for a church member in need of encouragement, for birthdays and other celebrations, in appreciation to the pastoral team, etc.
30. **Drive Thru Art Exhibit:** Set up a drive thru art exhibit or Bible story for the day. Invite members and the community to drive on through!
31. **Digital Thanks:** Members submit one photo and a two-word description of something for which they're thankful. Show a media presentation of the photos before and after the service.
32. **Holiday Food Baskets:** Organize, prepare and deliver holiday food baskets to families and individuals in need.
33. **Birthday Parade:** Put together a drive-by parade with banners and balloons to celebrate someone's birthday or special occasion.
34. **Zoom/Phone Prayer Meeting:** The power and community building of prayer cannot be overestimated! Put together regular prayer meetings on Zoom or on a conference call for your congregation.
35. **Bible Study App:** Download the [free Bible app](#) and participate in daily devotionals and Bible studies with others. Share images and verses with friends through the chat function.
36. **Small Groups:** Start a small group ministry in groups of 10 or less with members who are willing to meet in or outside their homes, at the park, etc.
37. **Family Discipleship Plans:** Offer family discipleship plans. [Lifeway Kids](#) is offering free weekly resources for parents and caregivers.
38. **Post How-To Videos:** Do you have people in your congregation who are skilled bakers, talented musicians, or great artists? Have them create how-to videos and post them on your congregation's online platforms.
39. **Book Club:** Now is an opportunity to dust off those books that have been sitting on your shelf and finally read them. Or better yet, find a book for your congregation to read together or for small groups to read together.
40. **Minute to Win it:** Good old [Minute To Win It](#) games. Send the materials out ahead of time (or send a list of items that can easily be found around the house) and then jump on Zoom to play together!

41. **Yoga Night:** Organize an online yoga night and enjoy activities such as [laughter yoga](#), [chair yoga](#), or [mindfulness exercises](#).
42. **Pass the Peace:** Ask your congregation to text someone to pass the peace; do it individually or incorporate it as part of your prayer chain.
43. **Visual Prayer:** Ask people to send in a picture along with their prayer request then display those visuals in the service, in a newsletter, or as a printed collage to remind people to pray throughout the week. See a detailed explanation of an [online visual prayer practice here](#).
44. **Prayer with Movement:** Incorporate [intercession with movement](#) to get bodies involved during a digital worship experience.
45. **Online Dinner Parties:** Designate a "host" and have people rsvp to the event to fellowship together. You might email a recipe and have everyone make the same dish, or freeform it.
46. **Post-Church Fellowship:** Invite people to gather in Zoom breakout rooms or on Google hangouts after the online service to fellowship and catch up like they normally would after a live church gathering.
47. **Pop-up Sacred Space:** Take sacred space to the people in the form of a pop-up or temporary space outdoors such as a bench or gazebo by adding devotional and meditational points. Learn more about creating a [pop-up sacred space here](#).
48. **Congregation Check-Ins:** Ask priesthood members to call 1-3 congregants each week and ask them what their greatest challenges are and what the church could do to support them.
49. **New Songs:** Discern new songs with your worship leaders to teach to your congregation and build a YouTube playlist. Where there is heart transformation and revival, there are new songs being sung!
50. **Neighborhood Caroling:** Musicology expert [Daniel Abraham](#) says, "The concept of carol(ing) in its origins has actually nothing to do with Christmas," but was a way of wishing neighbors well in all seasons. Invite families in your congregation to visit their neighbors' yards and sing to them using well-known worship songs, or even mainstream songs about love. Alternatively, create a traveling small group to surprise carol to members in their yards.