



## COVID-19 Response Updated March 20, 2020

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, please continue to **pray** for all who are affected by this disease. Many are being impacted relationally, socially, psychological, physically and economically. As Christ followers, this is a time where we can nuance the narrative of fear to one shaped by hope. In an unprecedented time of crisis and opportunity, the world has born witness to both panic-shopping and astounding acts of kindness and personal sacrifice for the sake of the other. This is a time where *being* the church is lived out in how we care for our communities, neighbors and friends.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16 – “Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”**

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We wish to be responsible citizens and be informed of the risks and precautions associated with this pandemic. Our national, provincial and local government health authorities are our best source of that information. We recognize that this is a fluid situation and encourage you to check the websites provided for accurate and updated information as needed. **Please follow their recommendations about public gatherings as detailed in the links below.**

### Stay Informed:

Get accurate and updated information:

**British Columbia:** BC Centre for Disease Control (<http://www.bccdc.ca/>)

**Alberta:** <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

**Saskatchewan:** <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

**Manitoba:** <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/>

**Canada:** Public Health Agency of Canada (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>)

We would encourage you to continue using existing communications methods and adapted virtual programming to instill hope in response to concerns about COVID-19, and to give regular updates from a centralized hub. If you are able, collaborate with other area churches in crisis management, as well as potential shared resourcing.

### CBWC Events Update:

- All Spring 2020 Executive Staff and Board meetings held via zoom
- New Ministers Orientation- Cancelled for 2020
- Ordination Examining Council- Postponed for later in 2020
- BLTS/Ascent Reunion- Postponed to a later date
- CBWC Online Assembly- Registration is open
- SERVE: Registration is open

## Sundays:

- livestream worship and preaching - minus the in-person audience
- during the week, prerecord worship and sermon and post online for Sunday mornings
- ensure giving is not disrupted by providing online giving, e-transfer, payee via bank, snail mail, or in-person cheque pickup
- adopt the house church model with social distancing protocol in place, and invite people from your church to gather in smaller groupings
- Create a church-specific playlist of worship songs and share via Spotify

## Home Groups:

- as long as groups under 50 are still allowed, gather with your home groups but ensure social distancing protocol is in place. If you are sick, please follow self-quarantine guidelines as recommended by the World Health Organization
- go virtual and gather using an online platform to connect, worship, and pray for each other  
5 Tools to help your online Small Group Ministry (from Small Group Network- Dennis Funk)
  - [Zoom](#) -- free for the first 45 minutes
  - [Google Hangouts](#) -- free
  - [Talky](#) -- free
  - [Skype](#) -- free up to 10 people.
  - [Slack](#) -- free
- [Practical tips](#) for starting home groups online

## Practical Resources:

- Receiving Tithes & Offerings
  - E-transfer instructions:  
Someone with signing authority on behalf of your church may visit your local bank to register your church's email address and begin accepting e-transfer donations. Setting up e-transfer this way ensures that all donations are transferred directly from one institution to another, without need of a password. Deposit notifications are emailed to the church identifying the name of the donor and amount of the gift to ensure accurate tax receipting.
  - members may also set up electronic giving by adding the church as a payee in their "bills menu" to personal online banking. All that is needed is the church's banking information
  - apps: [pushpay](#) & [tithely](#)
- Online Streaming
  - 3 simple ways your church can start [livestreaming](#)
  - [Instagram](#) tips for livestream (click on small arrows to advance slides for instructions)
  - Facebook Live
  - Youtube Livestream
  - Other paid options: [Faithlife](#) // [Online Church Platform](#) // [Zoom Webinar](#)
- Leadership Resources
  - Helpful Resource for [Leadership](#) in a time of crisis by Andy Crouch
  - Step by step, research-informed, faith-based [planning manual](#) from Wheaton College
  - A [pastoral response](#) to the COVID-19 crisis by Rev. Darrell Johnson

- Connect with your CBWC Regional Minister and cluster groups virtually for extended zoom sessions of sharing resources and prayer
- [Worship](#) resources from Calvin Institute for COVID-19
- [HR Resources](#)- specific to Alberta but helpful for all