



CANADIAN
BAPTISTS
of Ontario
and Quebec

100+ IDEAS

FOR PASTORS AND
CHURCHES TO DO
DURING COVID-19

Most of these ideas have come from our pastors and churches. We encourage you to read through the list and consider adopting or adapting one or more of them. Let us know if you have more ideas to share. Feel free to send your ideas to cgouveia@baptist.ca.

IDEAS FOR CHURCH MINISTRY

COMMUNITY – IDEAS TO BUILD YOUR CONGREGATION'S SENSE OF BELONGING

1. Equip a “technology care team”— a team of people with technological experience to support people that are not comfortable with technology so they can better connect to the church, family and friends.
2. Develop a Care Team that can provide pastoral care to congregants.
3. Offer a Zoom coffee time during the week and/or after your Sunday online service.
4. Encourage people to write and/or record a favorite church memory from each decade or blocks of five years. Collect them.
5. Equip a small group to write a church history.
6. Do an online living room picnic via Zoom.
7. Drive by prayers. Have people drive by congregants and pray for the family from their car.
8. COVID-19 caroling. While taking all physical distancing precautions, have families visit congregants for COVID-19 caroling! Like Christmas caroling... only different!
9. Have congregants send in pictures of how they are doing. Put together the pictures and include them during a prayer time during your worship service or during special music.
10. Develop a “phone buddy” system for people that are not online.
11. Develop a church scavenger hunt.
12. Find a picture that represents your congregation. Send it to every congregant with a simple message that they are loved and missed.
13. Find a way to gather the contact information of new peo-

ple watching your online service locally and send them a care package.

14. Post a message of thanks and/or encouragement on your church building wall, door, or windows for passersby to see.
15. Encourage congregants to subscribe to other church's YouTube channels (especially those with less than 100 subscribers so they can get a customized URL).
16. Develop a “digital church” task team where they gather learnings from other churches in how they are engaging in digital spaces.
17. Encourage mentoring relationships, especially with those who may feel lost and unsure of their future. (Consider using the CBOQ Youth gap year template cboqyouth.ca/postsecondary.)
18. Help those who are graduating (from grade 8, high school, post-secondary) celebrate this rite of passage and bring closure to this chapter in their lives.

WORSHIP - IDEAS FOR HOW TO CREATIVELY WORSHIP THE TRIUNE GOD

19. Have your musicians work on a special song “together”.
20. Encourage people to create an artistic or creative item a week (poem, song, painting, photo, wood carving, etc.) that is based on a Bible verse or truth of God's Word.
21. Encourage those walking their neighbourhoods to take pictures of new life, spring, hope and build a collection of photos to be used on your church website or social media or PowerPoint backgrounds, etc.
22. Discern new songs with your worship leaders to teach to your congregation. Build a YouTube playlist of the songs. Have the musicians learn the songs at home. Where there is heart transformation and revival there are new songs being sung.
23. Do a church wide campaign to memorize a Bible verse or

passage.

24. For those doing online worship experiences, have someone record the Scripture reading. That same person could tell a 2-minute story of what God is doing in his or her life during this time.
25. Have a worship leader do a simplified “Sunday Night Live” worship set from their living room and broadcast it via YouTube or Facebook.
26. Provide a mid-week online worship time/circle time for young families.
27. Attention Pastors! If you need a break from preaching, you can contact CBOQ to request a sermon recorded by one of our staff that you could use for your online service. Be in touch with Carol Gouveia for more information (cgouveia@baptist.ca). Or reach out to a fellow CBOQ pastor and agree to swap a sermon or do a month series where you each preach two of four sermons.
28. “What Matters Most Sunday” Crisis provides clarity and opportunity. Build a Sunday worship experience or another time where you encourage people to deal with what matters most in their lives. Help congregants process what matters most to them and then encourage them to get “20% more real” with God or someone they have a broken relationship with.

FORMATION - IDEAS FOR HOW TO BUILD DISCIPLES OF JESUS

29. Encourage congregants to write a devotional thought. Collect them and build a 40-day devotional.
 - Equip:
 - One person to take organizational responsibility
 - One person to write the introduction
 - One person to collect and collate them
 - One or two people to edit the document
 - Share it with your church and other churches in your association
30. Encourage your small group leaders by sending them a card of appreciation including specific, direct and encouraging feedback about how they are helping your church better reflect the life and teaching of Jesus.
31. Encourage your congregants to each do the exercise. What has changed as a result of this crisis and what has stayed the same?
32. Offer a daily prayer experience via Zoom or telephone conference call. Use a different prayer format each day. Or, introduce spiritual practices.
33. Do a church wide daily Bible reading plan.

34. Our Daily Bread is [available online \(https://odb.org/\)](https://odb.org/). Share the link. Equip someone to be a support person to help access it. If there are people that cannot access it, build a team that is willing to call people and read to them Our Daily Bread daily.
35. Equip a different ministry leader(s) to start a mid-week Bible study or small group. Meet with the leaders for mutual growth and encouragement.
36. Invite a local Christian therapist to join your small groups for a session. Or, host a mental health workshop.
37. Provide daily or weekly journal prompts for people. Invite congregants to send in a reflection on the week and share their reflection during the worship service.
38. Identify three of your key emerging leaders and ask to meet with them “together”. Gather to hear what God is doing in their lives during this time and what you could do to help them take their next step of faithfulness during this pandemic.
39. Practice a weekly Sabbath as a leader. Encourage your people to do the same.
40. Invite your people to hear from God in five minutes of silence and then invite them to share about it.
41. Review the free [Parenting for Faith](https://parentingforfaith.org/) online course <https://parentingforfaith.org/>. Consider running a virtual small group for parents to learn together.

MISSION - IDEAS FOR HOW TO ENGAGE IN MISSION AND EVANGELISM

42. Have a financial planner do an online training session on “Cash & COVID-19” that focuses on budgeting.
43. Offer an online learning experience with a local therapist to talk about “Crisis and Emotion.”
44. Encourage and challenge each congregant to be in contact with one neighbour or non-church friend each week to see if there is anything they can do to support them.
45. Offer an online class on evangelism. We are called to be prepared to tell of the hope that we have. When better than a time of crisis to have real conversations about the hope we have.
46. Host a “get to know you” online for people who might be attending services for the first time.
47. Encourage congregants to do a prayer walk their neighbourhood (while respecting physical distancing guidelines).
48. Offer virtual babysitting/child supervision. Potentially with a group, run a virtual daycare (cboqkids.ca/virtual-daycare).
49. Host an online trivia quiz.
50. Try to form a coalition of pastors, business leaders and

community leaders and others to help meet the needs of families and those in financial difficulty.

51. Drop notes in your neighbours' mailboxes offering practical help, like shopping for the elderly.
52. Clean up trash on the streets.
53. Ask to pray for someone that you meet in the lines outside the supermarket. Pray for peace.
54. Give someone a call today not because you need anything, but simply because you want to talk. Offer the kindness of your friendship so that they may not be lonely.
55. Go for a walk today. Smile and say hello to everyone you meet. This may feel weird at first but most people will be glad to respond. With each step you take ask God to bless your neighborhood. What comes to mind as you walk – use your thoughts as an opportunity for prayer

IDEAS FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

REFLECT - IDEAS FOR HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD, THE CONGREGATION AND YOUR COMMUNITY

56. Gather a group of theologically astute congregational leaders to reflect on the impact of being the church “online.”
57. Ask your board members to call three congregants each week and ask them what their greatest challenges are and what the church could do to support them.
58. Find a simple resource that you can share with your leadership about listening and feedback. One of the biggest challenges churches and pastors face is hearing, receiving and processing feedback.
59. What Matters Most—use this as an opportunity as a congregation to process what matters most to us as a church. You can use [CBOQ Thrive](#) materials as a starter.

DIRECT - IDEAS ON LIVING YOUR CONGREGATIONS' MISSION

60. Commission an artist to create something that depicts your church's mission, vision or value statements.
61. Review and update the information that is available on your church's website.
62. Have a conversation with your leadership team about:
 - What has changed during COVID-19?
 - What has stayed the same during COVID-19?
 - What does this mean for how we prioritize our

time, talent and resources?

63. Have a conversation that clarifies and separates what is Urgent, Important and Critical during COVID-19. Agree to do the most critical and important tasks.

PROTECT - IDEAS ON HOW TO MANAGE... GOVERNANCE, FINANCES, PROPERTY

64. Equip someone to collect your congregational by-law/constitution, policies, procedures, etc. and put them into a Google Doc, electronic folder or paper binder.
65. Have someone review the “must have policies” and create a list of the policies that your church might be missing.
66. Take some time to review the organizational resources available at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities www.cccc.org. They have created a tremendous online resource called The Green.

COLLABORATIVE - IDEAS ON HOW TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER CHURCHES AND PASTORS

67. Send an encouraging note to a ministry colleague—provide specific examples of how you have seen their strengths and gifts being used for the Kingdom of God.
68. Invite a group of pastors to gather virtually to talk about important matters.
69. Do a virtual “pulpit swap” with community pastors or association pastors.
70. Contact your prayer partner church and connect each member of your congregation with one member of their congregation for prayer and fellowship.

IDEAS FOR PASTORS

71. Take time to review your “ordination statement.” See if it still reflects your theological perspectives and re-write any parts if necessary. Consider ways that you have grown and changed and share those stories with a ministry colleague.
72. Use the journal prompt—define the meaning of the Gospel.
73. Use the journal prompt—Identify a theological issue that you are confused by and read a book with a differing theological perspective than you would typically read.
74. Build your own biblical and theological position around conflict resolution and reconciliation.
75. Find an emerging pastoral leader in your congregation and help them to develop and write one sermon.

76. Develop a “preaching guild.” Gather (virtually) a group of people that are potential preachers. Come up with a sermon series. Share resources. Help them learn how to write a sermon. Help them to develop speaking skills. Have them deliver the sermons to each other as a group and give feedback.
77. Read a recently published biblical studies book concerning a book or aspect of the Bible you do not know or remember much about.
78. Review/revise your philosophy of ministry based on the recent circumstances.
79. Take the [Emotionally Healthy Relationships](https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org) course. <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org>
80. Use the journal prompt—What are the emotional and spiritual boundaries between a congregant and a pastor?
81. Use the journal prompt—What I am afraid of? Ask God to work in and through your fears.
82. Use the journal prompt—What are some of my emotional wounds (humiliation, betrayal, injustice, abandonment, rejection, etc.) that are being brought to light in this crisis and how can I bring them to Christ?
83. Use the journal prompts—What am I angry about? What am I sad about? What am I anxious about? What am I glad about?
84. Spend a block of time reviewing your leadership capacities. Spend some time in silence asking God to reveal areas that you can grow in during this time. Identify which leadership skills could develop and take some steps to learn and practice these.
85. Take an online spring course from [McMaster Divinity College](https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/) (<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/>)
86. Identify an emerging leader or group of leaders in your congregation with whom you can study a book or topic or watch a video and discuss together what you are learning through it.
87. Understand how to use different types of technologies and the best ways to communicate through them (in person vs. video conference vs. conference call vs. email vs. social media)
88. Pick a subject or hobby you know nothing about and learn (through books, online videos, etc.) something completely new.
89. Reach out to someone that you consider to be more experienced, knowledgeable or wiser in an area and ask them if you can do a virtual coffee to learn from them. Offer three questions ahead of time.
90. Brush up on your knowledge of grief. Many will come out of this with unresolved grief. Learn how to identify grief in others (and yourself).
91. Learn about the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Many, especially PSWs and nursing home employees and even young grocery store workers are at risk. Learn how to identify who may have it and how to broach the subject with them.
92. Call a fellow CBOQ pastor each week to thank them for their ongoing ministry and ask them what their number one challenge is during this time. Pray for them.
93. Find a small group of ministry colleagues that you can commit to praying with weekly.
94. Reach out to another pastor and see what resources you can share (videos, readings, etc.).
95. Consider reaching out to the pastors in your association, consider doing a three- or four-week sermon series together. You can each preach and record a sermon and then share it with the others. You can work together at the beginning to develop a theme and share resources. If it is done well, it will give you extra time from having to prepare sermons each week.
96. Connect with a local grief counsellor and/or grief counseling organization and be prepared to offer grief support once this is over. Now is the time to prepare for it. See if other local churches would participate.
97. Arrange a “sermon club” where you take one sermon from each member of the group and offer constructive critiques.
98. Send a text of gratitude to any frontline worker that you know and ask them if you can support them in any way.
99. Take some time to visit [Canadian Baptist Ministries](http://www.cbmin.org) website to get yourself acquainted with what they are doing. www.cbmin.org.
100. Set up a 12- or 24-hr prayer chain—each person volunteers to take an hour or half prayer slot using Romans 8:20. Praying that God will bring good out of the COVID-19 pandemic. This might include praying for missionaries and missions that are on the frontlines.
101. Connect with your local nursing home administrator or manager. Let them know you care and ask how you can help.
102. Contact your local councillor and ask them how your church can help.
103. Prepare to offer grief counselling once this is over. Offer this to nursing homes and to the local area.