

Online Worship During Social Distancing

Susquehanna Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Given Gov. Wolf's extended directive against in-person gatherings and Bishop Park's call to all Susquehanna United Methodist congregations to suspend gatherings for worship and non-essential activities, the Cabinet offers the following suggestions to help you plan worship in the upcoming weeks.

First: we trust you. We trust our pastors to make the best decisions for their contexts. We encourage you to be creative in leading worship during this difficult time. We also ask that you talk with your district superintendent about your ideas, for assistance in sorting out the very real practical concerns as well as theological integrity.

Alternatives and enrichment of virtual worship

Online Love Feast: Because Communion is not feasible in the upcoming weeks, consider instead leading the early Methodist practice of the Love Feast. It is not Communion. However, some worshipers may appreciate the shared experience and the awareness of God's presence that this can evoke. Learn more (and read the *United Methodist Book of Worship* liturgy) [here](#).

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Consider also using services and hymns in the public domain—and writing your own original liturgies.

These may offer you some ideas:

["Tips for Sensory-Rich Live-Streaming Worship,"](#) by Marcia McFee

["Observing Holy Week and Easter at Home,"](#) Discipleship Ministries

[Worship Matters Podcast: Special Response Episode,](#) Discipleship Ministries

["A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet,"](#) by the Order of St. Luke.

["Ways to Use Story in Worship,"](#) by Len Wilson