



Church 2.0

In a time of social distancing and stay-at-home mandates, churches all over are finding new and creative ways to step up to the challenge of meeting virtually as well as reaching out to their communities.

Ready or not, church life for American churches has changed dramatically in the last few weeks. Some churches were already taking advantage of modern technologies to connect and put out digital material before Covid-19 consumed every aspect of our lives. But even those churches have had to adjust as the focus shifted from meeting in person to meeting online every week.

Dayspring Christian Fellowship was already doing live-stream services, but they have stepped up their game as live streaming became the main focus. "We originally did our Facebook video through a phone on a tripod in the front of the room," says Pastor Jim Bartholomew. "Now we are plugged into the sound board, and using multiple cameras."

Lower Deer Creek now posts a series of videos each Sunday on their website for church. It's a compilation of music videos already on YouTube, a children's Sunday School opening and their video lesson, and then a sermon, filmed in different locations each week to match the message.

Pleasant View is doing a similar form of prerecorded message and worship.

They have even had various guest worship leaders record songs in their living rooms for a more intimate worship feel.



Pastor Glenn Coblenz and the team at North Clinton have done something a little different in this time. Like others they are recording services and posting on Facebook and their website. However, for Easter they stepped it up a notch, quite literally, when they rented a lift for a drive-in sunrise service. Attendees could tune into a low frequency FM radio in their cars to hear the service as Pastor Glenn spoke from the lift.

And as far of congregants connecting, churches have gotten creative with the technology as they long for interpersonal connection. Pastor Don Patterson at Lower Deer Creek greets each congregant as they log into a Zoom meeting on Sunday mornings before they are redirected to a Break Out Meeting of their particular Sunday school class. Pastor Coblenz sends out a daily email as an encouraging word to the congregants of North Clinton. They also use a mass phone call program called One Call Now to send out pre-recorded

messages to many people at once. This is especially useful to the elderly in their church who may not use the Internet as readily. Dayspring has divided into three smaller mini churches in order to set up teams to connect with every individual or family each week to find out about their well being.

Not only are churches serving each other during this time, but they are still being the hands and feet of Jesus to their communities as well. In the past, North Clinton has provided a meal for their people on Wednesday evenings, but recently they have opened it up to anyone from the community. They advertised at a local food bank they sponsor, and last Wednesday, their leadership team served 205 drive-thru meals. Pastor Tyler Hartford is doing his own community service as he has joined a county initiative that is working to create a support line.

Clearly the church hasn't stopped reaching out. In fact, it may be this crisis has made us all the more conscious of what our neighbors may be going through. We haven't stopped having church either. In this season when we are not *going* to church but having church in our homes, we are made more aware that the same Spirit that conquered death and the grave does not live in a building. He dwells in each of us who are called by his name. Just like the veil was torn in the temple long ago unleashing the presence of God to all people, His Spirit is everywhere now. Even in the midst of uncertainty and physical separation within the body of Christ, we have the privilege of the presence of the Most High God whether we are alone in our

homes or in a crowd at church, whether it is Sunday or Monday. This we can be sure of, it doesn't matter *how* we do church because *we are the church* and God is with us.

Announcements

At this point, we are still planning to hold **ReGen 2020 at Taylor University on July 2-6. We are still accepting registrations at evananetwork.org/events/re-gen-2020**. However, when you register, please select "invoice me" when presented with payment options. Please wait to make any further payments until we make a final decision on whether or not to hold ReGen 2020. We will make this decision by June 1 based on counsel from Taylor and current risks to public health posed by COVID-19. If we decide to go ahead with the event, all payments will be due by June 15.

Tabor College just announced a **\$24,000 Evana Advantage Scholarship Program** available to any student apart of an Evana church! For details view their promo video at: <https://youtu.be/rj-8UTqSQsE> or contact admissions rep. Chris Pruitt, at christopherpruitt@tabor.edu

We are still getting mail to our old address. Our address is:

**Evana Network P.O. BOX 33,
MILLERSBURG, IN 46543**

Considering the current crisis, at this time Evana will not be hiring a Director of Church Leadership or a Director of Communications as previously posted. We hope to be able to continue the hiring process in the future.