

Innovative Grab Bag of Ideas

From Pastor Cynthia O'Brien at Aurora and Woodburn PC.

Volunteers working in the community garden every day socially distanced with masks produced 1500 lb of produce for the food bank this year

Choir members put together gift bags for virtual coffee hour and took them to all the members with treats, hot chocolate, tea and hot cider packets. They did another round of bags for Thanksgiving and will do another round for Christmas. Debi, an artist, includes an individually decorated coffee cup in each bag.

Lent daily devotions and Advent daily devotions printed and distributed.

90-year-old lady in Mount Angel loves Burger Time, so I picked up burger and fries for her and we enjoyed it in her front yard. Choir members drove her to the beach for her birthday in July.

Church members cut fabric at home for a mask making project.

Cynthia leads online art / faith workshops on Zoom using two cameras in her art studio. Next one Saturday November 28th.

Musicians are going to go out Christmas caroling in very small socially distanced groups.

Advent small group for those who want to deepen their faith at Christmas time Wednesday nights on Zoom

Invited people to share photos of what they're thankful for to be used in social media and on the November 22nd worship video

Advent candle lighting will be done by a family in their home. Scripture verse and they get to say what Christmas Hope means to me, what Christmas Love means to me, etc. They record it and we put it at the beginning of the recorded service.

Considering a joint live stream Christmas Eve service with the two churches

Both churches will have Christmas lights on them to brighten up the neighborhood. Aurora is getting a nativity display.

Held two outdoor worship services in the street in front of Aurora church

Music director Debi and I attend a weekly vocal development class on Zoom to be better singers and vocal teachers

Music director (both churches) and I traded jobs last Sunday. They preached and I did music.

From Pastor Jeff Sievert at Reedville PC, Aloha.

Boy, what is NOT an innovative idea during Covid?! And what might be uniquely Reedville, or does that matter? A few things:

- We do worship by Zoom! And it goes so well we'll need to step back into in-person worship carefully (and, of course, gladly).
- Our top-flight organist records all the music on a downtown church organ near his apartment and uploads links to YouTube. We embed those in the order of worship and our "Tech Engineer" plays them during the live service in a way that has become nearly seamless.
- I have photographed the sanctuary, table, font, and pulpit and use the images as virtual backgrounds for worship and switch between them for different parts of the service.
- Our annual fall bazaar was moved online with provisions for safe drive-through pick up of orders at church on the usual day of the bazaar.
- For Advent we've arranged "Advent to Go" decorated boxes containing supplies for home Advent observance that will be delivered to people's porches.

From Pastor Bob Barrett, Yachats

We blanketed the city with 150 signs (we only have 400 households) that say, "You Are Loved," along with our church logo.

Our first round of Covid Relief saw over \$200,000 raised and distributed to small businesses and local workers.

We saw a 400% increase at our food pantry, but saw our pantry fund grow from \$6,000 to over \$12,000 dollars.

Pastors discretion has grown from \$400 to \$12,000...

We've become financial intermediary for a local organization raising money for migrant workers/asylum seekers displaced by covid. together we have raised 46,000.

We've donated 2,000 to the local agency distributing holiday baskets.

\$1,000 to the county foster care to help provide Christmas presents to children.

\$1,500 to Moose Lodge for their feeding program.

We just received an anonymous gift of \$50,000 to continue our Covid relief efforts now that numbers are rising and restrictions are back in place...

We also purchased 60 \$50.00 gift cards to local restaurants as a thank you to local front line workers, and gave \$100.00 scholarships to local graduates that missed graduation...