



Digital Discipleship: Pastoral Care

Rev. Eddie Rester, senior pastor at Oxford-University United Methodist Church in Oxford and Rev. Andy Stoddard, senior pastor at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Madison have a candid conversation about their experiences with pastoral care during a pandemic. Below are some best practices that they have found to be effective in continuing mission and ministry in the life of the church. If you have additional ideas on practicing congregational care during a pandemic, send them to Rev. Eddie Rester at erester@ouumc.org or Rev. Andy Stoddard at andy@stm-umc.org.

Congregational Care

- Ways to check in (calls, mail, connecting children to older adults).
- Ensure leaders of groups are reaching out.
- Provide resources for anxiety.

Reaching Out to Visitors

- Have a curator of the online worship service to post links and information for visitors.
- Keep a list of folks who watch and are commenting that you don't know or are members of your church.
- Create a digital information card. Post it in the YouTube or Facebook feed and make quick contact. A Google form is an easy way to do this.
- Give your email address for people to ask for information.
- Always introduce yourself and offer ways to contact and give.

