

TOSSING AND TURNING

Mission and Engagement Ideas

There are times when we feel overwhelmed or unsure of our next steps, especially during times of crisis. What are ways we can journey alongside others when they feel this way? Here are some ideas:

- Assemble care packages for the homeless (check with a local homeless shelter to see what items are most needed). If no items are suggested, you could include the following in a gallon size ziplock bag or other reusable bag:
 - Snacks
 - Water bottle(s)
 - Travel size toiletries
 - Lip balm
 - Baby wipes
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Face masks
 - Razor
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Comb
 - Socks
 - Information about resources in your community and NJ2.1.1
- Collect and donate food to a local food pantry or bank. Take it further and volunteer there as well while practicing social distancing and following COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Support families with school age children who are balancing virtual school and their own responsibilities and jobs.
 - One way is to provide classroom or study hall space, Wi-Fi, computers and school supplies to children in your church during school hours. Volunteers assist the children and youth with their schooling while parents attend to their jobs or other responsibilities. First UMC Hightstown and The Journey Church in Harrisburg, PA are great examples of implementing this ministry while adhering to social distancing and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.
- Assemble UMCOR cleaning, hygiene or school kits. Learn more about UMCOR kits [here](#).
- Create a Care Team to address needs in your congregation and wider community.
 - People in need contact church office.
 - Office notifies a team member.
 - Team member supports the individual or family.
- Host a virtual financial planning workshop for the community. Partner with other churches in the vicinity to raise the funds so people can participate in the workshop for free. The workshop can be led by a financial planner through programs like Financial Peace University.
- Recruit a team to serve as mentors at your local middle or high school, or via the campus ministry at a nearby college.
- Begin a job support group or grief support group, or another support group that can assist a person in your community.



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