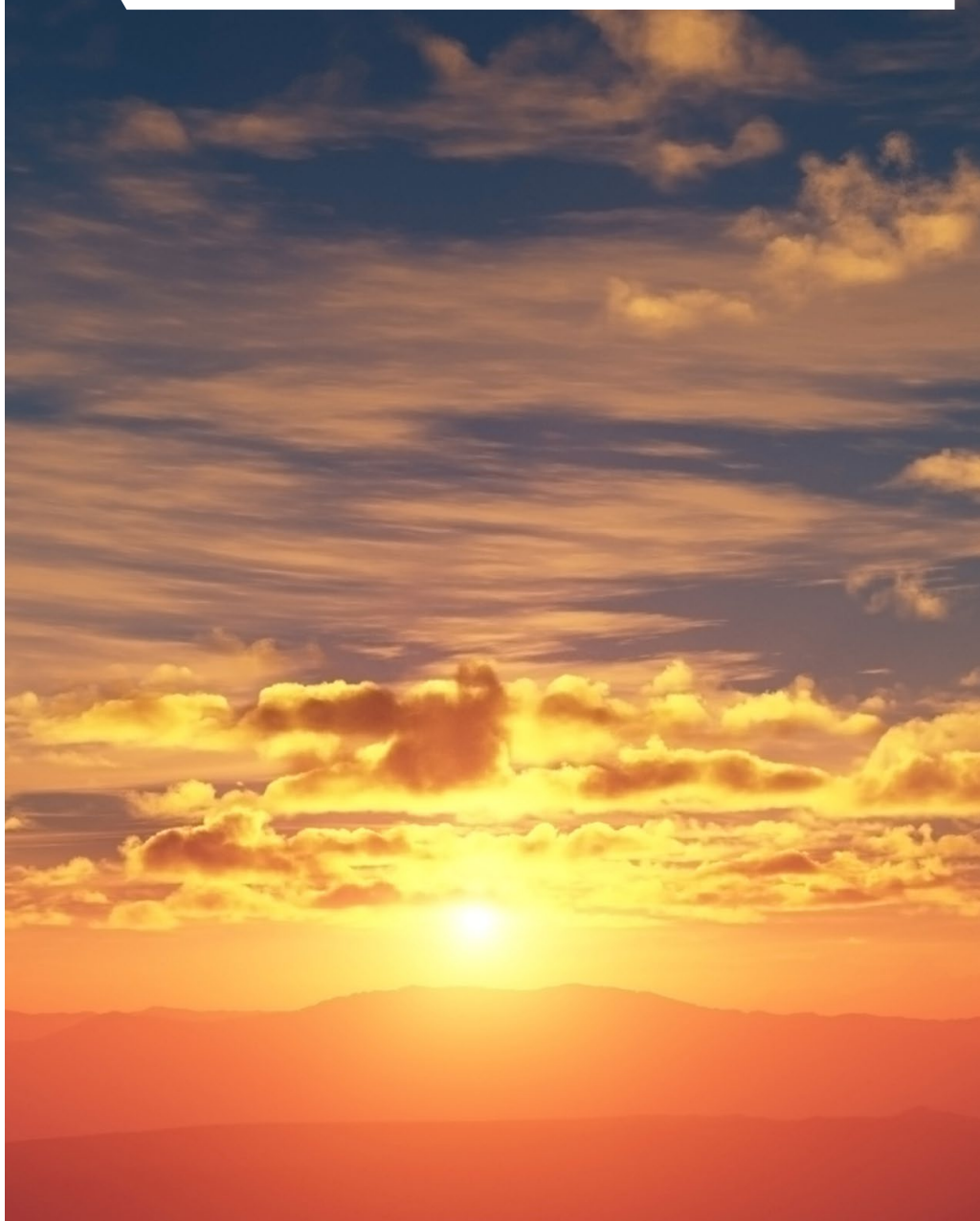


Connect, Grow & Go

To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



Connecting with Christ from Your Home, 2020



Dear Church Family,

We have assembled this special edition of Connect, Grow, and Go to help us all get through these unsettling times with the hope of Christ. We miss seeing one another. We miss gathering together during this strange season of social distancing. But even while we are apart, God will be at work in and through each of our lives. Meetings of the church may be suspended, but the mission of the church continues!

God's Word tells us to make the best use of our time (Colossians 4:5). The times we face today are certainly challenging, but they also present us with opportunity:

- ***To connect with one another in love*** – by reaching out to others; by praying for our world; and by making Christ known in the ways we demonstrate our kindness and compassion.
- ***To grow in faith*** – by devoting ourselves to prayer; by spending time with God in Scripture; and by reading, watching, and listening to spiritually-enriching materials.
- ***To go forth with the hope of Christ*** – even if we are limited in the places we can go, we can choose – wherever we are – to shine with God's light and hope. These times can remind us all that the church is not a just-for-Sunday-only building where we go. The church is wherever God's people are, every day of the week.

May we continue loving one another, praying for all whose lives are impacted by COVID19, and trusting in the goodness of God.

Do not be anxious about anything. But in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God that transcends understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Keep holding onto these words, knowing that God is always holding on to you.

With love, in Christ,

Pastor Chris

**Pastor Chris shared this poem in his March 22 benediction.
It was written by Brother Richard Hendricks,
a Franciscan priest living in Ireland**

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many
years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks
of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around
them.
They say that a hotel in the West of
Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to
the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her
number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone
to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues,
Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the
weary
All over the world people are slowing
down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking
at their neighbors in a new way

All over the world people are waking
up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneli-
ness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be mean-
ness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease
of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of
love.
Wake to the choices you make as to
how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of
your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by
Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

*Brother Richard Hendrick, 13 Mar
2020*

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OUR CHURCH'S BIBLE STUDY LIBRARY

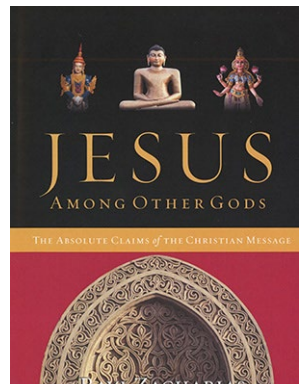
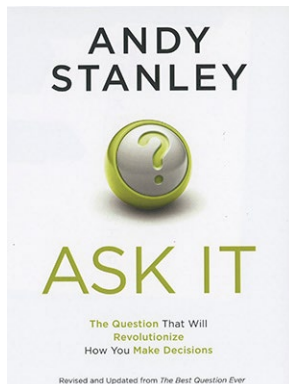
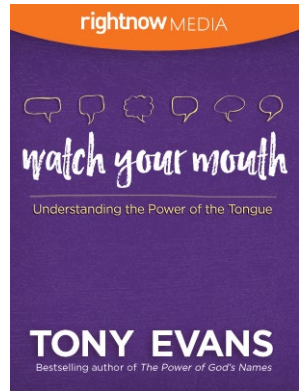
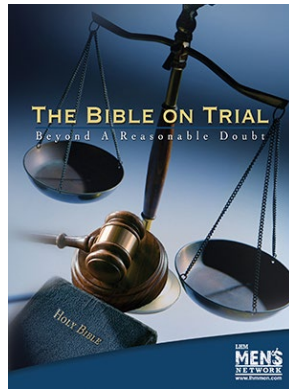
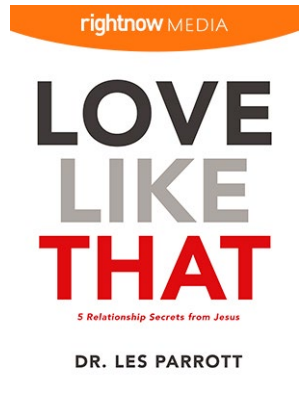
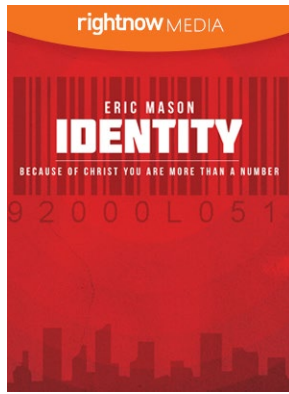
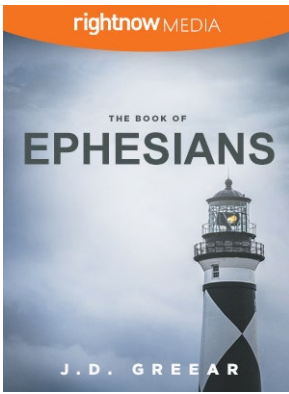
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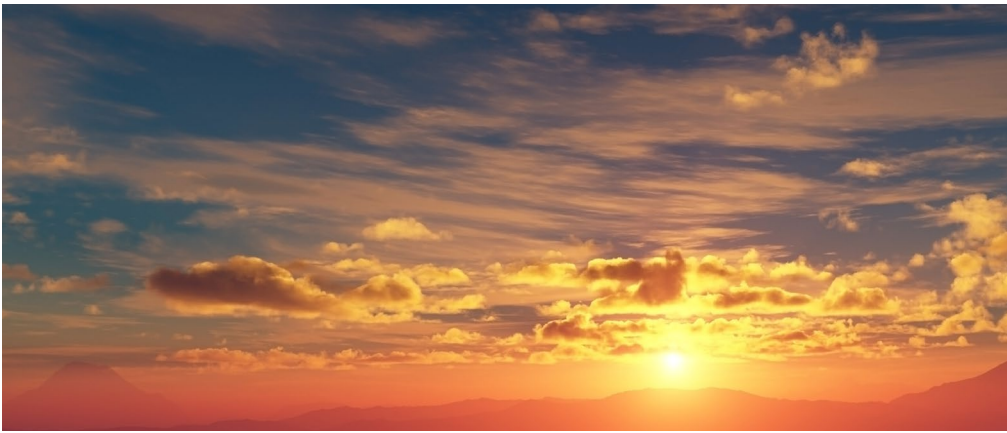
1. Go to www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/venicepresbyterian or...
2. Email cloomis@venicepres.org to request access.
3. Receive your invitation email.
4. Click the **Get Started** button in the email.
5. Create your profile...and explore!

I already have a login:

Go to www.rightnowmedia.org

Forgot my password: Click the "Forgot Password" link at the bottom of the login page and a link to reset your password will be emailed to you.

Forgot my username: Your username is your full email address.



Quiet Space for Prayer and Meditation

Escaping the noise, I love to light a candle (which symbolizes the presence of Jesus, the Light of the World). Sometimes I enjoy listening to beautiful music. If I'm on my patio, I relish hearing the songs of the birds. But mostly, I savor the silence – inviting God to speak into my soul. It can be two minutes, ten minutes, or longer. But the quietness provides unmatched healing and hope for my heart.

Reflecting on Philippians

It's interesting that God led us as a church family through an in-depth look at Paul's letter to the Philippians – an epistle written by a man who was in confinement, with words that resonate with "the peace of God that transcends understanding." It's worth revisiting Philippians: meditating chapter-by-chapter, or even committing to memory Philippians 4:6-7 (our church's verses for the year 2020).

Reading the Psalms

Every part of Scripture is powerful. But I'm particularly enjoying the Psalms during this season. You may want to

read a Psalm in the morning, and a Psalm in the evening. Any one of the 150 Psalms can minister to us, but here are 28 Psalms that may be particularly meaningful during this time of pandemic would be: Psalm 4, 16, 23, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 40, 46, 63, 71, 80, 86, 90, 91, 100, 103, 104, 113, 116, 118, 121, 124, 130, 139, 145, 147.

Praying With Hymns

Find some of your beloved songs of faith. Turn them into prayers – either singing them in your home, or speaking the words from your heart. It's amazing how powerfully the music of our faith ministers to us during times of stress.

Pray-As-You-Go

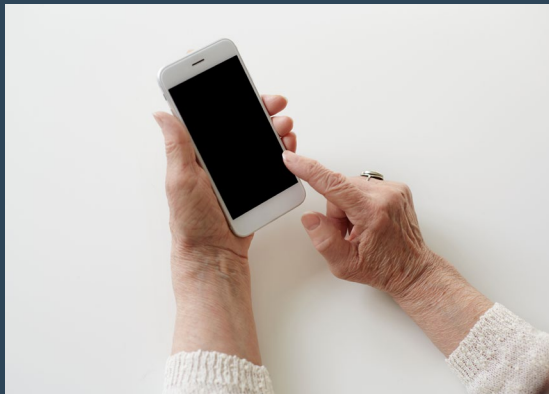
One of my longtime favorite on-line resources is Pray-As-You-Go, which offers daily readings of Scripture, complemented by beautiful music from around the world. These 10-12 minute daily devotionals are recorded by Christians from the United Kingdom. There's a free app on the App Store and Google Play, or you can go the website: www.pray-as-you-go.org



YouVersion
The Bible App™

YouVersion

I'm grateful to my son for introducing me to this app, which I installed on my smart phone. YouVersion provides many different tools – you can subscribe to a “Verse of the Day,” follow a Bible-reading plan, look up a passage of Scripture, and more. They offer different short-term inspirational devotionals, for example a seven-day plan called “A Journey From Worry to Confident Hope: Praying Through the Lord’s Prayer.” You can find YouVersion on the App Store. It’s totally free, and provides a treasury of inspiration at your fingertips.



Reach Out & Touch Someone

Many of us remember the 1980’s phone company TV ad: “Reach out and touch someone.” Reaching out... caring for one another in tangible ways ... is of the most important things we can do as Christians during the social distancing of this coronavirus pandemic.

Jot down some names of people with whom you can connect... via phone call, text message, or email.

- Your neighbors, especially any who may be particularly isolated or lonely.
- Your family and friends – let them know how much you care.
- The people who often sit near you in church. Reach out and let them know how much you miss seeing them; ask them how they are doing; and tell them you look forward to being together again when our times of gathered worship resume.

Don’t wait for someone to reach out to you. We each need to take the initiative.

And when we do venture out in public, let’s be sure to express kindness and gratitude to everyone we meet.

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

Safe & Easy Ways to Give



As we enjoy worshipping together online, your offerings can be given online, as well. We understand that contributing electronically can be confusing and by listing step-by-step instructions, we hope to make this process easy for all who choose to participate.

Signing up for online giving enables you to view your giving history, print giving statements, create/edit recurring giving schedules, and manage your method of giving. It's easy to sign up, it saves the church processing time and money, and your information is kept confidential and secure.

There are four ways to give to Venice Presbyterian Church electronically. **Online** through our secure website through Realm®, downloading the **Connect** App on your smart phone, **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** and the newest way, **Text Giving**. **Of course, for your comfort, giving can also be done by check through the mail.**

WELCOME ABOUT VPC MINISTRIES



VPC HAPPENINGS CONNECT GROW & GO **GIVE NOW**

Give Online (virtually anywhere and any time)

Giving online is safe and convenient. Realm (Real Ministry) offers new and easy ways to give financially to support our ministries. Whether you want to set up a recurring gift or split your donation among different funds, Realm makes it safe and secure to give online.

1. Click the **Give Now** option on the top right corner of our website.
2. Enter your gift amount.
3. Give to the fund preselected for you or choose a different fund from the drop-down menu.
4. Enter your email address.
5. Select a frequency.
6. Click Give.
7. Choose your account type.
 - Credit/Debit Card **the church is charged approximately 3.5% in processing fees.*
 - Checking Account **no processing fees for the church*
8. Enter your payment information.
9. Click **Give** to complete your donation.
10. You'll receive email confirmation of your gift.

*God is our refuge and our strength, and
a very present help in trouble; therefore
we will not fear...*

— Psalm 46:1-2

 Realm Connect



Give from the App

1. **Connect:** This mobile app enables you to have Realm at your fingertips and stay connected to our church.
2. Search **Connect** in the app store.
3. Download the free app and sign in.
4. Tap the Giving icon at the bottom, tap Make a Gift and follow the prompts to give.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

The church has a short form for you to fill out and sign.

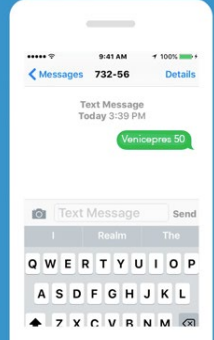
Send form to the church with a cancelled check. We automatically withdraw your gift from the designated checking account on the 20th of each month.

If you have questions about any of these methods of giving, please contact Chris O'Brien, cobrien@venicepres.org. Thank you for donating to the ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church.

Text Giving

New way to give!

73256
Venicepres
+
AMOUNT



Text Giving couldn't be easier and more secure. Text Giving provides multiple security layers for financial transactions and registration payments. To begin the process:

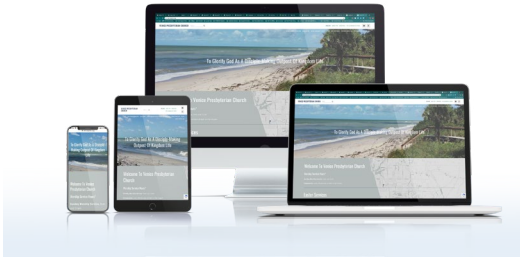
1. Text to: **73256**
2. Use Code: **Venicepres**
3. Type in the giving amount: **50** (*insert your giving amount here*)

It will take approximately 2 minutes to set up a payment method. Once the first text gift is processed, the payment method is saved for future contributions and allows for a faster and more convenient giving experience. When gifts are submitted through text, Venice Presbyterian Church will show in the confirmation text, payment form, and on the receipt.

We thank you so much for your continued support during these uncertain times.

Connect with VPC online

Click on the icons to go to the sites.



Our website, www.venicepres.org: **Desktop, Mobile & Pads**

The front page of our website has the most up-to-date church news. Think of our website as our online home. There you can find times and links to Sunday services, the bulletin, giving links, and upcoming events. Look in the upper right for the menu. We also have our social media links. Click on the icon and you will be taken to the site.

Our website is also "mobile responsive" which means you can view it from your desktop, laptop and mobile devices and it will resize automatically for the appropriate device.



Email

Every Friday (and Wednesday during Quarantine) we send out emails with upcoming events, church news, Sunday information and more. You must sign up to receive VPC emails. To sign up, go to the front page of our website and fill out the form. If you have been receiving emails, then you have already been added to our system.

The most common comment we get is that you didn't receive our emails. It is usually because our emails have gone to your "Spam" or "Junk" Folder. Once you open one of our emails, you're telling the system that you want to receive our emails, you should now receive them without them going to the spam folders.

We encourage you to open and read our emails to stay informed of church news. This is especially important now as things are changing at a rapid pace.

Video Conferencing



Zoom, a video conferencing service, is good for small groups.

With an enormous number of people social distancing as the world tries to curb the spread of corona virus, Zoom has become a key tool for working from home, and a top choice for all kinds of virtual meetings.

Zoom is a good choice for those interested in continuing small group bible studies due to its ease of use, stability and reliability. Zoom is also popular with family and friends as a way to stay connected as a group.

FaceTime is a video chat application developed by Apple. FaceTime remains available only to users of Apple products. Venice Presbyterian uses primarily Mac products. You can use FaceTime from your iPhone, iPad or Mac computer, and you'll need to be contacting someone on one of these devices as well as you can only talk to other Mac devices/users with it.

Social Media



YouTube & Livestreaming

YouTube is a video sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment and upload videos. The video service can be accessed on PCs, laptops, tablets and via mobile phones. All of the churches videos are hosted on YouTube.

Livestreaming is the broadcasting of live videos to an audience over the internet. Unlike pre-recorded videos that can be cut and edited, livestreaming is just that – live and uncensored.

During this time of uncertainty, we continue to Livestream our Sunday services but they may occasionally be *pre-recorded*. We cannot predict future quarantine restrictions, therefore, we want to make sure the Sunday services continue to bring us together in worship. We continue to try creative ways to worship together and ask for grace during this time.

To get notified of new videos posted on YouTube, click on the Subscribe button and "Ring the Bell" to the right of the button.



Facebook is a social networking site that makes it easy for you to connect and share with family and friends online.

Venice Presbyterian Church has a Facebook page with basic information about our worship services and events. We encourage you to reach out to us using the Facebook platform and let us know how you're doing during this time. Facebook encourages community interaction and we can come together using this platform to pray for one another and to check in with our neighbors and "friends".

We know this is the most popular platform for our congregation so we are looking to expand our Sunday services to include Facebook Live as well as, YouTube Livestreaming. This requires some additional licensing but we are hopeful that this can be implemented quickly.



What is an "App"?

The word app is a short for "application." Application in this case refers to a software application – in other words, an app is a software program.

An app typically refers to software used on a smartphone or mobile device such as the Android, iPhone, BlackBerry or iPad, as in "mobile app" or "iphone app."

Source: www.smallbiztrends.com/2011/03/what-is-an-app.html

What is a "browser" on a computer?

Short for web browser, a browser is a software application used to locate, retrieve and display content on the World Wide Web (www), including webpages, images, video and other files. The web server sends the information back to the browser which displays the results on the Internet-enabled device that supports a browser. **Examples of popular browsers are Safari, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox & Edge.**

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Our Vision in Action

To Glorify God As A Disciple-Making Outpost Of Kingdom Life

Per the recommendation of the federal government and the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the VPC building will be closed during the quarantine. Church staff will be working remotely and will be available through email. Pastors will be offering telephone visits for the safety of all.

TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

Closed during quarantine

OFFICE PHONE

941-488-2258
Messages will be returned

WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

Online only, Sunday, 10am
www.venicepres.org

LIBRARY HOURS

Closed during quarantine
jchaplin@gmail.com

Church Leadership

Board member contact information is available through the Realm app through your phone or signing in to www.onrealm.org on your computer.

Session

TEACHING ELDERS

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

CLERK OF SESSION

Laurie Wright

Dick Edmunds

Tom Hoffman
Bob Painter
Bob Allen
Nick Clemmer
Sheryl Morford

Jamal Sarikoki
Jennie Chaplin
Carolyn Stephens
Jim Weeks
Shelly Wharton

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen (Chair)
Skip Sayers
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Nick Clemmer
Diane Sharp
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VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

825 the Rialto, Venice Florida 34285, 941-488-2258

www.venicepres.org, want to receive our emails?

Go to the website and fill out the short form:

"Stay connected during the COVID19 Pandemic"