

Grace in the Waiting Space

Stories of Ministry in a Time Apart

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A Time for Children

1. When Annie Espinoza was unable to minister to children with her puppets in person, she began to record her messages online and found a much wider audience. What have you had to adapt to during the pandemic that developed into something better than what you had before?
2. What part of Annie Espinoza's story did you find most inspirational?

Anointed Grief and the Promise of Revival

1. Nilwona Nowlin emphasizes the loss the Promised Land Covenant Church community has felt to not be able to express their grief in the fullness of their culture. In what ways have you been restricted from true grief during the COVID-19 season?
2. Michael Carrion is quoted as saying, "My community was already in a pandemic before the pandemic started." What does he mean by this?

Camp Lament...and Sabbath

1. Many camps were forced to completely cancel their ministry for this season. What service or outreach did your church have to stop due to the coronavirus?
2. Erik Strom refers to this season as an "undesired sabbath." How does this change your own approach to sabbath?

COVSPARKS

Covenant Companion discussion starters for groups and personal reflection.

Living Room Liturgies

1. Randall Wilkens says that during the COVID-19 season, worship has become more informal, intergenerational, interactive, and intentional. Which of these aspects has been the most evident in your own online worship experience?
2. Do you think COVID-19 has been more of a crisis or an opportunity for the church?

Resetting the Table

1. What did you use for communion elements during the worship online season?
2. What do you think Richard Moore means when he says, “Virtual communion still reminds us that we are all part of the universal body of Christ, which, in some sense, has always been somewhat virtual”?

The Lonely Pulpit

1. Lisa Orris says, “I don’t preach to our congregation. I preach with them.” What does this mean?
2. What does congregational participation look like in your church?

Waiting for Word

1. Many nursing homes and health institutions restricted visitors during the pandemic. Who were you unable to be with due to strict isolation regulations?
2. Faced with a profound helplessness regarding the nursing home ministry at his church, David Sladkey relies on prayer to be “enough.” What comfort do you receive from prayer in extreme situations such as this?