

## COVID-19

# Faith Communities - Staying Connected

As pillars of strength in communities, churches and faith-based organizations play an important role in connecting the community and contribute to beneficial social interactions. Faith-based organizations also have a role to play in preparedness and response to outbreaks.

### **I am missing my worship / faith community services, what can I do?**

- Many denominations are offering online services or messages. Check with your faith group to see if that is an option. If they aren't offering something locally, many of the higher level associations are.

### **I do not have internet access, how can I still be a part of my faith community?**

Check with your mosque, synagogue, temple, church or other faith group to see if they have other options.

- Some platforms (i.e. Zoom) have a call in option
- There are often radio or television broadcasts of services for many faith-based groups.
- Some groups are doing "check-in" phone calls for their members. Inquire with your faith group if that is an option.

### **Can our faith group hold a "drive-in" service?**

The Ontario Government has recently made an amendment to the rules to "drive-in" or parking lot religious ceremonies as long as the following conditions are in place:

- Each person attending the gathering must remain in their vehicle that is designed to be closed to the elements
- Person must not be in a vehicle that contains members of more than one household
- The driver of the vehicle must ensure that it is positioned at least two metres from other vehicles
- No more than five people may conduct the service, and must maintain a two metre distance from anyone
- The building where the service is being held must remain closed except to those conducting the service
- No materials must be exchanged.

### **Can our faith group hold an outdoor service?**

- Currently the Ontario Government has restricted gatherings of more than 5 people. Until this changes, outdoor services would not be permitted.