



Church of the Brethren

March 20, 2020

Dear youth advisors, pastors, advocates –

Wow. None of us ever imagined we'd be in this spot. Not only are we dealing with what the pandemic means for our own families, but we are also trying to support those we walk beside in ministry. This is exhausting and difficult. May you seek and find solace in the presence of God.

As you imagine how to connect with and support your youth in a constantly changing environment, remember that our most important call as ministering people is to take care of people in the name and spirit of Jesus. Right now, we can't do ministry in the ways we've become accustomed to, but we can (and must) do it!

I will try to provide you with resource ideas and a place to connect with others who are doing the same work. For now, the place to connect is the [Youth Advisors of the Church of the Brethren](#) group on Facebook. If you haven't yet joined that community, today is the day.

To help me understand some of your needs more specifically, [here is a short survey](#) you can fill out to give me focused feedback.

In addition, I acknowledge that we are all learning as we go. The resources provided are only important if they are useful to you in your situation. Please use an extra measure of grace and forbearance as you evaluate effectiveness of a tool for your context. Many resources will be ecumenical in nature, and thus may not match up perfectly with every bit of your/your congregation's theology.

I plan on continuing to be available to you in the following ways:

- desk phone, (847-429-4385) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. central. I will return your call if you leave a message.
- email (bullomnaugle@brethren.org)
- Facebook message

Your own faith and your commitment to care for the children of God are two of the most important resources you have right now! You can do this! We Brethren have always been and will continue to be an innovative, adaptable, and fearless faith family; let's move forward in faith, for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

With gratitude and thanksgiving for all the ways you are being the Body of Christ,

Becky Ullom Naugle

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