

Social connecting during Social distancing

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20

While all of us navigate through the impact of Covid-19 on our lives, members of Highland Hills Baptist Church continue to develop strategies on how to keep the church body connected and engaged. Below is a short list of some ideas that are being worked on to fulfill this mission.

Please review ways of staying in touch and praying for each other. Furthermore, the ideas below would allow us to continue meeting as groups with the current constraints rather than completely suspend normal gatherings.

One on One Interactions

- Utilizing the time-tested old fashion phone to check on each other and remember you can find phone numbers of members from the Church directory. Paying special attention to the young, old and shut in of our community.
- Try experimenting with the Apple feature called Facetime to literally see and hear each other live. Note: Only available to iPhone customers.
- Google hangouts is a go to tool for Android users to connect face to face.

For gatherings of 3 or more- I.e. Bible classes, routine committee meetings and Sunday school classes (Flock)

- Schedule an online virtual get together using Zoom. At the moment, the church has three user identities to allow group leaders to hold online sessions to address church matters or simply see how a group is coping with the new changes. Access is available on a first come, first serve basis and will be expanded as needed to accommodate more involvement. Works great for larger groups when you want to see each other and maybe share screens. IMPORTANT NOTES: There may be a little learning curve for some, but it is not that difficult and has proven to be a very useful tool for others at church already. For login information contact and instructions contact Tom Gottschalk by phone or email.
- Use the conference call feature on your mobile smart phone. To do so call the first person you want to participate, wait for them the answer, then “Add a call” and repeat process until everyone is on one line. NOTES: This option seems ideal for smaller groups when a conversation among a few attendees is perfect. It is also very simple to experiment and troubleshoot with before you need to use it. Strongly recommended for use when one person is a tiny bit tech savvy and others are not.
- Go ahead and create your own free Zoom user account for free and host you own web-based meetings that can have up to 25 attendees in them for up to 40 minutes at no extra charge! It can be used on smartphones, tablets and computers and is a super way to dip your toe in the water of this type of technology. FYI: Free meetings will end automatically in 40 minutes without warning. ☺ So, watch your time. This can prove to be a very efficient way to hold impromptu meetings with little effort.

Formal meetings and assemblies requiring privacy.

- The church has established a GoToMeeting account for committee chairs, Deacons, board members and leadership to use when more security is desirable and there may be privacy concerns. This program also has a complimentary conference call line too. It works extremely well for those who just want to keep life simple and “call in” without the bells and whistles.
 - The username, login and schedule for this software will be managed by the church office staff and designated members.