

Kensington Church's Response to the COVID-19 Situation:

Be the Church

The church isn't a *building* but rather a *body of people* who love God and love others – our two greatest commandments (*Matthew 22:36-40*). In the midst of this uncertain time, we have an incredible opportunity **to be the church** outside our four walls – even while staying inside.

With Governor Whitmer's recent Stay-At-Home Order suspending all non-essential activities, there are still incredible opportunities to share hope and encouragement and meet the practical needs of our neighbors. Below are some suggestions for reaching out in your neighborhood virtually or partnering with Move Out Teams that serve in essential ways.

However you choose to Move Out, please continue to practice appropriate health and social-distancing measures for you and your family. Your well-being and that of those around you is our utmost concern.

Thank you for bearing the love, peace and hope of Christ when it's needed the most. And if you have any questions about our Move Out opportunities, please contact us at moveout@kensingtonchurch.org.

Ways to Help

1) Reach out in your own neighborhood and spheres of influence.

Pray and ask God

- Who around me needs encouragement, prayer, or help meeting essential needs?
- What steps do you want me to take?

Consider and pray about what is in your hand

- What do you have that can help someone meet their essential needs. *Examples include money, gift cards, food items, transportation, access to the internet, a mobile phone, etc... be creative!*
- What skills/gifts/services can you offer virtually to your community? *Examples include free online photography lessons, tutoring, cooking demos, yoga classes, music lessons...be creative!!*

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For full information visit
[kensingtonchurch.org](https://kensingtonchurch.org/coronavirus)
[/coronavirus](https://kensingtonchurch.org/coronavirus)

For prayer please email
[prayernow](mailto:prayernow@kensingtonchurch.org)
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Consider the following ideas or come up with ideas of your own

- Call a neighbor, co-worker or elderly person to encourage them.
- Cheer someone up by sending a card, note or your child's work of art.
- Provide tutoring (via online/phone) to a student home from school.
- Bless someone with a gift card for gas or groceries.
- Use your neighborhood's social media group to share encouragement, needs and creative ideas for sharing.
- Use media conferencing such as Skype or Zoom to stay connected with your friends or make new ones.
- Reach out to a family of a health care professional and ask how you can help.
- Share Kensington virtual resources such as Livestream Services and Kaleo Arts Virtual Workshops.
- Support your local small businesses with carryout orders.

2) Provide Lunch Bag Supplies for House of Hope.

With schools closed, House of Hope is providing bagged lunches to the children whom they serve. You can help by purchasing requested items and dropping them off at our central location in Oakland Twp. Please contact moveout@kensingtonchurch.org (include *House of Hope* in subject line) for purchase and drop-off details. Please **do not** take items directly to House of Hope.

3) Help restock the shelves of our neighborhood food pantries.

While many of us have been able to shop to prepare for quarantines, food bank users do not have that luxury, and supplies are dwindling at many of our local food pantries. You can help by purchasing non-perishable items and dropping them off at the location nearest you. Choose from the locations below, or visit www.pantrynet.org and enter your zip code to find other nearby locations. We also recommend that you contact the pantry/ church directly to find out best times for drop off and visit their website to see what types of foods they need most.

- **Neighborhood House** Rochester Hills - 248.661.5836 www.ranh.org
- **Oakland Hope** Pontiac - 248.309.3658 www.oaklandhope.org
- **FISH** Lake Orion/Oxford - 248.628.3933 www.oxfordorionfish.org
- **Open Hands Pantry** Royal Oak - 248.546.1255 www.openhandspantry.org
- **Macomb Food Program** Mt Clemens (Macomb County Action Center) 586.469.2572 <https://mca.macombgov.org/MCA-ES-Food>
- **Heritage Church Food Pantry** - Sterling Hts 586.997.9490 <https://experienceheritage.org/ministries/care/the-pantry>

4) Provide Food/Produce Boxes with Micah 6

Micah 6 is working to provide boxes of produce to families while children are out of school. [**Click here**](#) to donate towards the cost of the food boxes.

5) Connect with serving and resourcing opportunities in Oakland County.

[**MyCovidResponse.org**](#) is an online resource working to serve central Oakland County including the cities of Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Waterford and the surrounding areas. [**Click here**](#) and complete their short survey to be connected to specific volunteer and resourcing opportunities.