

A smorgasbord of Covid-friendly Christmas Ideas:

1- Use your front yard (or church yard) as a landscape of joy: hang lights, make decorations, check out YouTube for instructions to make ice-lanterns. You can even make an ice-sculpture by spraying a chicken wire sculpture with water on a cold night. Make a sacred space, a humorous space, or a hopeful space. Spread light. A church might design a winter sacred space and invite the community to come and sit among the lights. You might include a laminated bible verse or poem or even a QR code that would lead people to an audio file of someone reading out the Christmas story.

2- Take ten minutes each week to contact one person to see how they are doing. This is probably both the easiest and most impactful thing you can do.

3- If health guidelines allow, plan a skating, snowshoeing, skiing, or other outdoor socially distanced party with someone who might be feeling lonely. Or how about a winter bonfire? Or firework display? That would make memories!

4- Partner up the children in your life with the elderly to become pen-pals or picture-pals. Getting something in the mail is always exciting.

5- We may be missing choir and school concerts but why not plan your own? Gather with some friends over a video chat and have your own little concert or lessons and carols service. Kids could make shakers and you could take turns reading out the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke. Wear ugly sweaters or dress up in your best.

6- Kids going to miss the nativity play? Make a home video of kids re-enacting the Christmas story and then send it to grandparents and friends.

7- How about organizing a little contest in a parish or among friends? It could be a digital talent show, a Christmas light challenge, or a challenge to artists to represent a particular idea like Hope.