

Church Online Resources

With churches closing their doors throughout the globe, it might be overwhelming to think of all the things that need to be done to move your community online. But take a deep breath and focus on a few things first, then move to advanced online tactics.

1. Start streaming

- a. Facebook or Youtube live are great options. Both allow real time comments which can help keep the congregation together (or be turned off necessary)
- b. Make sure to test first. In most cases, you can get by with just a mobile phone and internet. Check out for [tips on delivering an online sermon](#): and [Facebook LIVE Streaming Tutorial — 8 Facebook Live Tips](#)
- c. Supplies to make streaming easier: [Selfie light tripod](#) and [tripod \(no light\)](#)
- d. Church online is a 2-way conversation. Invite people in: Call them by name, ask questions, take a poll, interact with comments and make sure to follow up via messenger, phone call etc..
- e. Use Facebook Watch Party

2. Get small groups going via zoom or facebook groups

- a. Keep it simple so your congregation can stay connected
- b. Encourage groups to exchange emails and get recurring meetings setup
- c. Set-up a Facebook Group Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DkxFhR4R90>
- d. Read: [How Facebook groups can grow your church](#)
- e. See below for more details for mastering small group discipleship below

3. Get giving online

- a. There are many resources, but keep it simple!
- b. Facebook charges no fees but it can take 45-75 days to receive donations. For more information go here:
<https://socialgood.fb.com/charitable-giving/donate-button/>
- c. Subsplash, pushpay and church community builder are great resources for growing giving engagement. See below for more online giving options.

Now that you've mastered the first 3 essentials, here are some further improvements to look at:

4. Engage the youth!

- a. Put together activities for the youth in the community. [Here](#) is an example from Rainier Ave Church in Seattle

- i. Lower elem age: <https://bit.ly/3beFRzI>
- ii. Upper elem: <https://bit.ly/2QD2Vje>
- iii. Youth Live Stream Handout: <https://bit.ly/33Dsaap>
- iv. Midweek Coloring page: <https://bit.ly/2WCdcQy>
- v. Orange K-3rd Parent guide: <https://bit.ly/2WCdcQy>
- vi. Orange 4th-5th Grade Parent Guide: <https://bit.ly/2U9BmQG>

5. Resources for kids

- a. Whether you're looking for a resource to share with families or content to stream, [Covid19.ag.org](https://www.covid19.ag.org) has the free, **Kidmin-specific resources you need during this season**, such as:
 - b. **Kidmin during Covid19 Webinar**: Hear the AG Kidmin team provide ministry insights, share resources, and give tips on online ministry during the current situation.
 - c. **Tru Fire Lessons**: Brief lessons with an activity, Bible story, and worship. It's free and you can add it to a [Facebook Watch Party](#) to stream to your families' homes.
 - d. **Salvation Resources**: Now What? For Kids, Salvation is now available as a free PDF. Email this to parents when they let you know their child made a decision to follow Christ.
 - e. **Improving Your Online Kidmin**: (Coming Soon!) In a matter of days nearly every children's ministry was trying to figure out how to disciple children through a digital medium. Perhaps you are one who would like to improve, but just don't know how. This free course gives valuable insights from children's ministry leaders around the nation on connecting with the home, presentation techniques, and how to get video to look good on a tight budget.

6. Mix it up

- a. Church online is a great opportunity to raise up future leaders and tap into the talent of your members. Invite others to join by going live, managing your social media platform, or lead a small group online. Here are some ideas.
 - i. Scripture reading
 - ii. Music
 - iii. Prayer
 - iv. Interest/variety show style videos or groups - Cooking, humor, sports etc..
 - v. Home activity of the week
 - vi. Experts from different departments (Medical, Government, Fire, Police, Non-Profits)

7. Group mastery for discipleship or special interests

- a. Use the social learning feature of Facebook by setting up units in Facebook Groups. Go [here](#).

- b. Engage and disciple those not on social media by trying Zoom, conference calls, [RightNow Media](#), [podcasting](#) or radio.
- c. At PCL we have had great success using the Youversion Bible APP for small groups. There are currently over 800 Bible study plans you can choose from. For example: A 7 day plan on prayer or a year-long plan to read the Bible together.
- d. Use [Facebook Watch Parties](#). Share Sunday service to your small group and have everyone watch and discuss together.
- e. **Keeping communication going through group texts**
- f. Our goal is daily discipleship. Use one these group text programs to send daily encouragement, meeting reminders, prayer requests or scriptures to keep your community engaged.
- g. Tech that can help
 - i. Remind
 - ii. Text in Church
 - iii. Pastors Line
 - iv. Simple Church APP
 - v. Flock Note

8. Create Online Care Teams

- a. The goal of care teams is to connect & engage with members and new online followers. Recruit both, people who are already leading AND those who have not been able to serve inside the church. For example: Youth, singles, professionals, stay-at-home moms, retired, and those with disabilities or chronic illness. There is an untapped army of people who are already on social networks for hours each day that are part of God's plan to reach the world with the Good News. They are simply waiting for you to ask them.
- b. Ideas for care teams
 - i. Online small group leaders.
 - ii. Digital evangelism - a team who follows up on new people and helps promote your page by, likes, comments & shares.
 - iii. Prayer Teams
 - 1. Members
 - 2. Local Community
 - 3. Civil & Government officials
 - 4. Medical workers etc..
 - iv. Community Care
 - 1. Porch cards/gifts
 - 2. Shopping for elderly, sick or confined
 - 3. Work with local city officials on care strategy

9. Curating Content

- a. There are two schools of thought around social media content - Viral and branded. You or a team member can curate viral content or create branded

content. The [internet meme](#), a classic example of viral content, usually takes the form of a video or an image with one or two lines of text. You or a team member can create branded graphics

b. You don't have to be a graphic designer to curate or design content. Here are my favorite ways:

i. Graphic design software & APPS:

1. Spark(APP/Desktop)
2. Canva for nonprofits
3. Adobe
4. YouVersion Bible APP

ii. Free & Paid Graphics/Videos:

1. CV Outreach
2. [Pro Church Media](#)
3. [Open Resources](#)
4. [Open Network](#) – Life Church.TV
5. Social Media Butler (Paid Service)
6. [Motion Worship](#)
7. [Visual Media Church](#)
8. [StockHub](#)

iii. Free Photos:

1. Unsplash

10. Social Media Scheduling Service

- a. Hootsuite
- b. Buffer
- c. Facebook

11. Building Teams

- a. [Pivot Leadership Training Manual](#)
- b. [Strengthsfinder Online Assessment](#)
- c. [Spiritual Gifts Assessment](#)
- d. [Redmond AOG Care Team Model:](#)

12. Blogs:

- a. [Angela Craig](#) - Social Media Pastor @PCL
- b. [Jay Kranda](#) - Online Pastor @Saddleback Church
- c. [Randall Greene](#) - Digital Marketing
- d. [Carey Nieuwhof](#) - Leadership
- e. [Barna Research](#) - Church Stats
- f. [Online Church Resources](#)

13. Books

- a. [Online Jesus](#)
- b. [Growing an Engaged Church](#)
- c. [Pivot Leadership: Small Steps, Big Change](#) (English/Spanish)

- d. [The Church of Facebook](#) (This book was written in 2009 but still relevant)
- ## 14. Church Online Facebook Groups
- a. [PCL Digital Ministry Training](#)
 - b. [ChurchCommunications](#)
 - c. [Online + Digital Church Leaders](#)

Other Helpful Hints:

1. [Add Captions to your Facebook Live videos](#) (Pages Only)
2. Use [Be.Live](#) to bring up to 10 people onto your Facebook Live
3. Use Instagram for live split screen videos you can share to Facebook. Find out how [here](#).
4. Make a Spotify playlist - Ask your members and social media followers to help you. See my example [HERE](#).
5. If you wanted to have a meeting on zoom with multiple presenters but stream to facebook, here's how! [Streaming a Meeting or Webinar on Facebook Live](#)
6. Use [Restream](#) to multistream to 30 different platforms simultaneously. Compare services [here](#)
7. Know what you can and cannot stream: [Music and streaming](#)

Other Streaming Options

1. YouTube Live
2. Instagram Live
3. Church Online Platform
4. Living As One
5. OSB
6. Mevo
7. PikelFaith
8. ChurchStreaming.TV
9. LightStream
10. [10 best live streaming services for church you should know](#)
11. [Church Streaming Handbook](#)

Additional Resources for Online Giving

1. Tithe.ly
2. Rebel Give
3. Venmo (limited transaction amounts)
4. CashAPP (limited transaction amounts)

For more resources, visit www.AngelaLCraig.com

Pastoral Care Resources:

1. [His Heart Foundation](#): Serving local churches to minister in the areas of mental wellness, through prevention, intervention, and restoration. Transforming one life at a time.
2. [Faithful Counseling Online](#) ;Professional mental health counseling from a Biblical perspective

This list was compiled with the help of Joel Werdell