



AN ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE

In an effort to provide high support to our pastors around the world, the GCI Media team has researched best practices and suggested platforms for providing an online church service. Each congregation may determine the best solution for your context. We pray this information is helpful and encourage you to explore and research to develop your action plan.



WHAT ARE THE BASICS FOR AN ONLINE WORSHIP GATHERING?

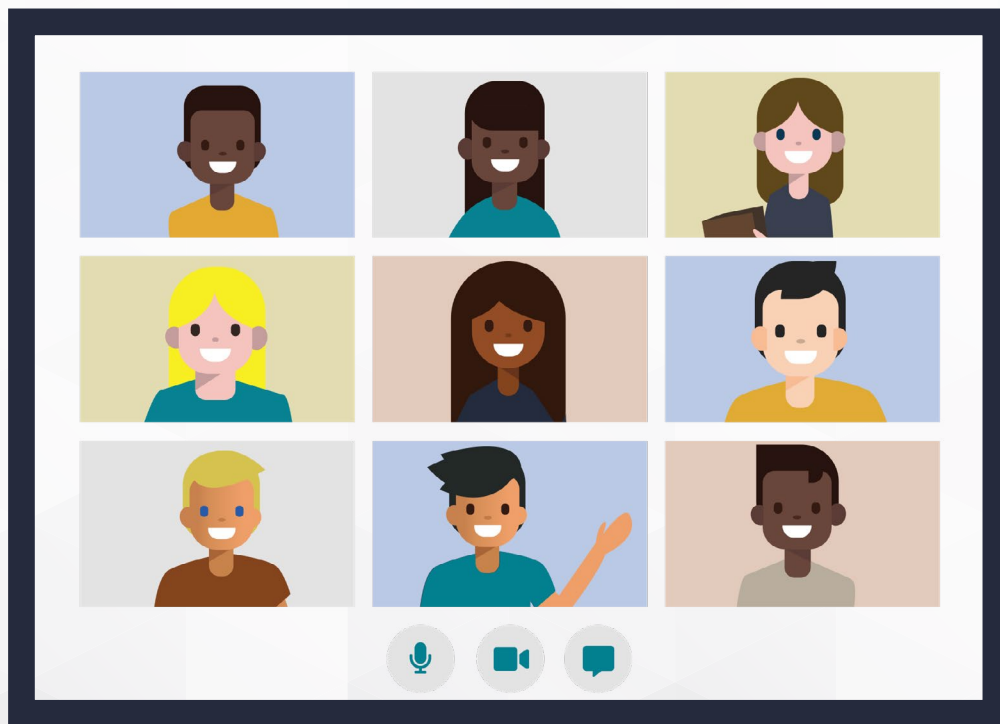
- **Stay connected as a family. Beyond sharing a message of hope, think of ways to maintain interaction and to comply with government guidelines. For example:**
 - » If you email a pre-recorded message, include a discussion question, and encourage members to share their responses.
 - » If you livestream your service, use the chat option to invite guests and neighbors to upcoming Love and Faith Avenue church events.
- **Create ways for neighbors and guests to attend and participate virtually.**
 - » Promote and provide the link for your worship gathering on your communication platforms (i.e., email lists, website, etc.)
 - » Provide a digital connection card. Here's a [guide](#) to developing one.
- **Promote your online giving and text-to-give options. If your church is in the US, you can find your online giving info on [the church locator](#).**
- **Comply with [CCLI Guidelines](#), if you include worship music during your online service. Live streaming options require [an additional license](#).**

WHAT ARE SOME ONLINE PLATFORM OPTIONS?

- **[Zoom](#)** – gathering on a Zoom call is a great option for congregations with members who do not have internet access and would still like to gather as a community. If you think Zoom is the best option, we have developed a [guide](#) with more information. Additionally, we have some [tips for zoom security](#).
- **[Pre-recorded services](#)** – A pre-recorded message allows you as the presenter to view and edit the service before it is shared. You can email the message to your members or share it on your congregation's website or Social Media Page. If you think pre-recording is the best option, we have developed a [guide](#) with more information.
- **[Live streaming](#)** – Facebook and YouTube are the most popular platforms for live streaming. Streaming your service provides the option for both members and guests to attend your service and allows for real-time community interaction. It also provides the opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to visit and connect with your church. If you think live streaming is the best option, we have developed a [guide](#) with more information.

WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES FOR LIVESTREAMING?

- **Facebook** and **YouTube** are the most popular platforms for live streaming. Click on the above links for comprehensive steps for going live on each platform. Before going live:
 - » Promote your live event across your communication channels. Even if members follow your page, Facebook only sends the notifications to about one third of your followers.
 - » Prepare and practice the order of service, your set up, and your steps for going live.
 - Consider what privacy setting for your video is best fit for your service and select the appropriate setting for your service.
 - Have your online and text giving information accessible to share.
 - Make sure your font size is large and your images are visible, if you are projecting onto a screen.
 - Make sure your internet is stable. For example, confirm that no other devices are streaming from or using your bandwidth.
- **Record for a few minutes just from your phone or camera to see if there are lighting, audio, and camera angle adjustments that need to be made.**
- **Purchase the additional CCLI streaming license required for live stream if worship songs will be a part of your service.**
- **Mute all devices in the room before going live.**



The ability to worship together through online services is a blessing that allows you to share the good news of Jesus outside the walls of your building. Prayerfully consider how your team can provide both an in-person option and a digital option. With some planning and intentionality, you can include your neighbors who may not be able to attend the in-person gathering.