

Need help getting your church online this weekend?

with special thanks to [Brian Beauford](#) at [Grace Church, Avon MA](#)

Get Your Church Online This Weekend!

We've been getting a handful of questions about how to get your church services online in the quickest, cheapest way possible. So I wanted to send out this quick guide to help any church with any budget get online.

I know all this can be pretty daunting...

God called you to be a pastor not a techie, right?

If you'd like to come to our Avon, MA location and record your message with high quality video and audio just let us know and we'll help you get it done!

Please email me Brian@ThatsGrace.org

Cheapest Fastest LIVE Option

Facebook Live from your cell phone or computer is the quickest, cheapest way to go. The quality won't be great but you can get up and running in a few minutes. I would recommend that you go live from your churches Facebook page and not your personal account. It should be one of the 3 types of posts... Photo, Camera, LIVE.

Fast but NOT live Option

You can prerecord your message from your computer using free software like <https://wistia.com/soapbox> this would allow you to split the screen so you could have your camera and your notes or verses. Then simply upload the video to facebook, youtube, vimeo or your website. If you're feeling super ambitious you could even use <https://churchonlineplatform.com/> and here is a tutorial <https://support.churchonlineplatform.com/article/vd0luk51c8-adding-embed-from-youtube-or-vimeo-for-simulated-live>

Free with More Options But More Setup

Use a professional camera with OBS software to stream live or simulated live services. With OBS you can use a prerecorded video and broadcast it LIVE on facebook at any time. OBS is a free software but sometimes the quality is not that good. We used this software at grace for about 2 years and wrote about it in more depth in this post, we also cover a few of the cameras and other equipment we use. <http://www.521pastors.com/how-we-run-our-facebook-live-service>

Paid Streaming Services

This is an option but will take several weeks to setup and cost \$100-\$200 per month plus any hardware/setup fees there might be. The quality is much better and the features are also much better. We recommend <https://livingasone.com/> if this is something you'd be interested

in. Our setup took about 2 weeks. We paid \$1500 for setup and we're paying \$100/mo

PRO TIPS

1. Bring it ALL online. If your sermon has any takeaways, action steps or further resourcing make sure to put all that online and clearly communicate how to access those materials. Use one single URL for all your church online resources. YourChurch.org/online is a good memorable url.
2. Create a prayer form so people can submit prayer requests online. The easiest way would be to setup a google form with their name, email and prayer request.
3. Create "Host" accounts on Facebook. We've created fake host accounts for our facebook live hosts. It sets them apart, lets people know they are a host and removes any personal info about them. Here are a few examples. https://www.facebook.com/grace.essence.31?ref=br_rs https://www.facebook.com/gracechurch.rickson.9?ref=br_rs
4. Engage the online audience. Ask for comments, likes, shares throughout the message. This will help them feel like they are a part of the teaching and not just watching from home.

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