

Ways to Keep Your Church Engaged

In times when you may not be able to gather physically there are still ways to create meaningful virtual community. Below are FREE resources for your groups. Curated by Lindsay V. Hayes, Ph.D. Candidate, Penn State University

Broadcast



800K

[Facebook](#)

Livestream sermons and or Bible studies

- Facebook has a chat feature that allows viewers to comment, react, and share during livestreams
- Consider streaming on multiple platforms as some websites may not have the bandwidth to support all of your members online at once
- YouTube and Instagram also have live streaming options



1,000

[Free Conference Call](#)

Host a prayer call

- Create a prayer line or audio broadcast of your worship service for participants to call into
- Remind listeners to mute their microphones during the call, moderators can also mute callers

Discuss



500

[GroupMe](#)

Create a church or ministry group chat

- Members can share resources i.e. YouTube links, sermon links, worship songs, bible verses, prayers, devotionals etc.
- Gives members a space to express themselves and get in-time support
- Create a space to provide up to date information regarding the church
- Can be used over SMS, smartphone not require



[Facebook](#)

Discuss after service

- Post discussion questions on your Facebook Page after service for participants to engage with the content

Study



[The Bible App](#)

Join a group reading plan or devotional

- Multiple users can join a shared Bible plan or devotional which allows participants to share, comment and read comments from others in the community
- Daily plans range from a few days to a year
- Shared plans can host up to 250 people
- Also accessible through [Bible.com](#)



[YouTube](#)

Create a resource hub

- Create a themed YouTube playlist including worship songs, sermons, Bible studies etc.

Fellowship



150

[Google Hangouts](#)

Facilitate weekly small group fellowship

- Ensure groups have a mix of beginners & experts
- Assign a variety of group topics i.e. anxiety, parenting, sermon discussion, etc.
- Small intimate groups of 5-8 are encouraged
- *ProTip:* Use [Google Forms](#) to coordinate participants. Here is an [example survey](#)
- Accessible on computer or mobile devices



100

[Zoom](#)

Host a video conference

- For larger meetings like staff or ministry groups, Zoom allows video conferencing with built in chat, screen sharing, and recording features
- Subscription options allow up to 1,000 participants

Within All Online Spaces:

1. Assign a church leader to serve as an ongoing moderator (set ground rules, flag inappropriate behavior, etc.)
2. Make participants feel seen, valued and heard
3. Create safe spaces where individuals can express themselves without fear of judgement
4. Encourage reflection, dialogue and mutual learning between participants
5. Consider utilizing multiple platforms; participants will engage based on accessibility and comfort

For additional online learning space resources visit: [LindsayVHayes.com](#)