



Tips and Tools to Help Navigate Through This Challenging Time

The need for change is no longer something that can be ignored. It is time to re-think how we do vital ministry. Now more than ever, having an online presence is crucial for staying connected and in relationship with your church members and community.

An organization's survival in the weeks and months to come depends far more on radical innovation than on tactical cutbacks. This will mean iterating and experimenting very quickly in the coming weeks. We must all commit to learning and adapting (some experiments will be more successful than others) as we continue building trust with one another to discern together how to advance redemptive entrepreneurship in a completely changed environment.

This is also a time for vision and hope. A time to take all kinds of risks to create new things in the world. A time to be willing to learn and change. A time to see new opportunities, even through our loss and grief.

So, once you've done the hard work, don't stop! After this crisis has passed, doing the work now will make our churches, our organizations immeasurably stronger for having done the hard work. When you can resume regular worship together, keep the electronic advances that you have made.

Stay up-to-date with Coronavirus news on the Mississippi Conference website on the [Congregational Care and the Coronavirus](#) page.

Staying Connected to Each Other

How do you stay connected in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic when you can't travel — across country or just down the road? With today's tech, you have options. You can have video conversations and play games with family and friends, near and far.

Here are a few examples:

- Video Chat Apps (i.e., FaceTime, Google Duo, etc.)
- Video Messaging Apps (i.e., Marco Polo)
- Online Games (i.e., Words with Friends, Draw Something, Free Flashcards, etc.)

[Click here](#) for activation and setup instructions.

Staying Connected to Our Communities

- Church Websites: Don't have one but want one? Now you can — easily and economically. For assistance, contact Jason Zebert at jzebert@mississippi-umc.org or Jane Horstman at jhorstman@mississippi-umc.org.





- United Methodist Communications - <https://umcchurches.org/>
- ChurchSpring - www.churchspring.com
- Prayer Requests Module
- GroupMe (group text messaging app): <https://groupme.com/en-US/>
- Text in Church Software: <https://www.textinchurch.com/>

Social Media

- Using social media at your church (example): <https://youtu.be/E7QbC1hZLIY>
- Facebook:
 - Create Account (Personal): <https://youtu.be/nkKnIRQO2KI>
 - Create Page (Church): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7qmO9RrIL4>
 - General Facebook usage: <https://youtu.be/fGcHOcj1SQA>
- Instagram:
 - Create Account & General Instagram Usage: <https://youtu.be/0Z4AEDyKGdI>
- Twitter:
 - Create Account: https://youtu.be/Qd4XXb_tjI0
 - General Twitter Usage: <https://youtu.be/5jWNpLvdocU>
- More tutorials: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdtwPYK_0LG3ll1Op0iAMkQ

Systems of Care:

- [No Tech – Low Tech: Ministry Ideas for Local Churches](#) (Holston Conference) (Setting up Phone Trees, etc.)
- Oxford University UMC Podcast, [“The Weight – Mike Slaughter – Leading in a Time of Crisis”](#)

Other UMC and Livestream Resources:

- [Resource UMC Local Church Learning Sessions](#)
 - [Technology for Worship, Small Groups and Giving](#)
 - [Keeping Donations Flowing During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
 - [Fast Track Training to Use Technology](#)
 - And more! Go to <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/helping-your-church-respond-to-the-coronavirus> for additional resources from UM Communications
- [How can we livestream worship legally?](#)
- Switcher Studio (www.switcherstudio.com): If you can dream it, you can stream it! Switcher Studio lets you sync iPhones and iPads to livestream and live-edit video from multiple camera angles — and edit in real time — helping you connect with your community in the most engaging way. Stream directly to Facebook, YouTube, etc. or record it for later.
- Fresh Expressions:
 - [Zoom Liturgy: How to Move from Broadcasting to Interacting](#)
- Life.Church – [Free Online Church Resources](#) (tools & apps)

Tools and Resources:

ZOOM Video Conferencing

Step 1: Create a ZOOM Account – it’s free to sign up! There is a Pro version, but if you just need a quick solution to meet on video, the free (Basic) version provides all the capabilities and features you need. It takes about 30 seconds to sign up for a ZOOM account. Main differences in a nutshell:



- ZOOM Basic: This is the free version. Great for 1:1 unlimited video calling and group calls (40-minute time limit if you're hosting a meeting with more than one person). You also get unlimited direct and team messaging capabilities with ZOOM Chat.
- ZOOM Pro: For \$14.99/month, you get all of the Basic features plus enhanced admin controls on your meetings, in addition to cloud recording. [Compare plans and pricing](#) to find the best one for you.

Step 2: Download the ZOOM Meetings software on your desktop and mobile. You can find the download center [here](#). From there, just sign in and you're ready to go.

Secure Your Meeting Experience

ZOOM has features to protect your meetings and provide privacy (see [ZOOM Security Tips here](#)).

Additional ZOOM Information

- [Additional Tips to Help You Meet Like a Pro](#)
- Fresh Expressions | [ZOOM Liturgy: How to Move from Broadcasting to Interacting](#)
- UM Communications Video | [Getting Started with ZOOM for Worship and Small Groups](#)

Facebook Live

Go live on Facebook to broadcast your worship services, etc. You can go live on a Page, in a group or an event, and your live videos will appear in people's News Feed.

- Download this [quick tutorial](#) to help you get started with Facebook Live.
- Find [Facebook Live tips](#) here.

Cisco Webex

Webex is a leading solution for video conferencing, online meetings, screen share and webinars. Learn more at: www.webex.com

GoToMeeting

GoToMeeting video conferencing is a web-hosted service that enables collaboration through online meetings, screen share and webinars. Learn more at: www.gotomeeting.com

Podcasts

How-to

- UM News | [Podcasts Give Churches 'Germ-Free' Way to Minister](#)
- [How to Start a Podcast for Dummies \(2019 Easy & Affordable\)](#) (YouTube Video)
- [Podcasting for Beginners | How Does it Work](#)
- [How to Start a Podcast: Every Single Step for 2020](#)

Helpful Podcasts Tools

- Audacity (www.audacityteam.com): a simple-to-use, multi-track audio editing and recording tool (free)
- Stitcher (www.stitcher.com): an online radio and podcast site
- Switcher Studio
- [GarageBand for Mac](#): a fully equipped music creation studio inside your Mac

Creating Video

- Use your camera/video app on your iPhone or Android device
- ScreenRec (screenrec.com): a free screen recorder and screenshot capturing software for Mac, Windows and Linux with instant, private and secure cloud sharing (free)
- Wondershare Filmora (filmora.wondershare.com): a simple-to-use video editing tool (free)



Online Giving Solutions

See four options at [4 Inexpensive Online Giving Solutions for Small - and Mid-Sized Churches](#)

- PayPal Donations (<https://www.paypal.com/us/home>)
- EasyTithe (<https://www.easytithe.com/>)
- Stripe (<https://stripe.com/>)
- Continue to Give (<https://www.continuetogive.com/>)

Electronic Worship Resources

- Worship House Media (www.worshiphousemedia.com)
- Live Video Streaming Equipment
(<https://www.boxcast.com/blog/the-best-live-video-streaming-equipment-for-your-ministry>)

***Be mindful of the use of music and the need for a web license when broadcasting online.

Training

[Digital Media for Ministry](#) (UM Communications) (\$19 |1 CEU)

Digital Media for Ministry is an in-depth guide into the most effective ways to communicate using technology that people in your church and community already use. This course will help you create engaging podcasts, captivating videos, blogs and email newsletters that nourish the souls of your audience. You'll also learn how to leverage your digital media message using social media and other platforms. Also see: [Digital Media for Ministry Catalog](#)

Fuller Resources

Due to the extraordinary circumstances around COVID-19, until July 1, 2020 Fuller is offering FULLER Formation for FREE to new users who would like to use our resources to grow in faith or serve their faith community. Create an account and gain immediate access to their 60+ FULLER Formation resources on topics such as discipleship, hope and spiritual practices. No subscription is required until July 1, 2020. [Click here](#) to access.

Always keep moving forward...

Your Faith Community Formation Team

- Rev. Tim Thompson, tthompson@mississippi-umc.org, 769.243.7070
- Jane Horstman, jhorstman@mississippi-umc.org, 769.243.7072
- Rev. Dr. Jason Zebert, jzebert@mississippi-umc.org, 769.243.7073