

Tech Support for online engagement

Friends, as the world around us changes with every passing minute, we have discovered a capacity to engage new technologies and embrace different ways to continue to be church. The pace of change over the last couple of weeks has been remarkable, and the efforts made by different churches to adopt appropriate tech-based approaches are commendable. The info below may be of benefit in this time:

- <https://www.techsoupcanada.ca/en> offers discounted software for churches and other non-profits. Zoom, Microsoft, Adobe, and many other products are available.
- <https://zoom.com> is one of many ways to engage online one-to-one or with groups. A free account is available which will allow for some testing and experimentation with up to 100 people for 40 minutes. A paid subscription removes the time limit. Tutorials are available on their website, and Youtube users offer plenty of guidance.
- <https://jitsi.org/> is an open-source, free video conferencing platform that many are using to good effect.
- <https://www.facebook.com/> is the ubiquitous social media platform for all ages. Many congregations are using it to offer livestreamed worship experiences. Click on the “What’s on your mind?” box at the top, click the three dots for other options and then scroll down to find the “Live Video” option.
- If you are doing an online worship experience, please upload your info to the United Church map at this link:
<https://edgeucc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/00d5083bcaff4120863a8badb2d0928a>
- Be sure that your music license allows for livestreaming. OneLicense is offering a free license until April 15: https://news.onelicense.net/2020/03/13/one-license-offers-gratis-licenses-to-help-cope-with-covid-19-challenges-valid-through-april-15/?fbclid=IwAR0PZp9ghkw2vLqXWFDuBKpXJO674t2ebG_ac897YBPd1zSWLmmHRj7izAU
- GO Project is offering an online March Break Camp: https://thegoproject.ca/virtual-camp/?fbclid=IwAR03kKbobZ7xLhghgTdxwYvOQF8IViRLZUm96o8nYIsESIOjpkJXSF_99ho
- <https://www.youtube.com/> Got an idea, but not sure where to start? Chances are someone on YouTube has posted a how-to video. Use the search box!
- <https://prayerbench.ca/> resources for worship, study and spiritual practice.
- Need some new hardware to help support your new online ministry? General Council offers grants: <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/technology-support-grants-pastoral-charges-and-community-ministries>

- Have an innovative idea to offer ministry in a new and different way? EDGE can offer some guidance and financial support: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/innovation-grants>
- <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/> is The United Church of Canada's preferred platform for online donations. Giving accounts are already established for every charity in Canada, including churches. They do take a percentage as a fee for their service. Details on their website.
- The United Church also offers PAR (pre-authorized remittance) in which the giver authorizes a set amount to be withdrawn from their bank account on a monthly basis: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/give-regularly>
- <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19> General Council communications and support