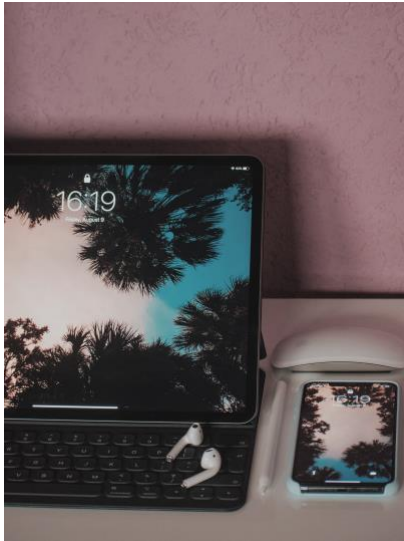


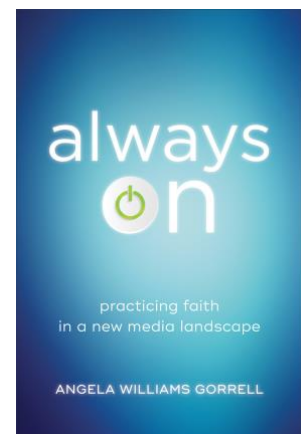
Gorrell Guide to Creating Online, Participatory Worship Services



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*[always on](#) —
practicing faith in a new media landscape*



INTRODUCTION

Welcome! You can do this. I believe in you and your team.

[I'd like to introduce myself to you. Watch this video.](#)

(Click the words above. The words are embedded with a link. Anytime words like the ones above are highlighted and underlined in this document, you can click them and it will take you to a video or a website. You can learn how to do this in the section called *Technical Help*).

This is your guide to creating an online worship service that will keep your congregants engaged, connected to each other, and living out their faith in the coming weeks.

Don't just stream a sermon. *Participatory* worship services matter.

[Let me tell you why. Watch this video.](#)

Even if you are not a technology person or have never had church online, **you can do this.**

If your church already has a plan for online worship, uses a lot of new technology or even has livestreaming options, you can also use this guide. I hope it will inspire you and encourage you to think outside the box.

I created this guide relatively quickly (given the current circumstances) while trying to keep in mind multiple denominations, all ages, and varying abilities and disabilities. The ideas and bulletin templates will be *far better* with your input. Let's create the most meaningful, imaginative, participatory, inclusive services possible. We will go far together.

If you are unsure of how new technology and social media relates to ministry and the way people live out their faith or want to help congregants connect Christian faith with their use of new technology and social media, read [always on: practicing faith in a new media landscape.](#)

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Getting Started

There are three main ways to use this guide

1. Low Stress Path

If you are low on time and have lots of other things going on, and love the idea of most of the service being planned out already, this choice is for your team.

There are five bulletins for five weeks of online services that are mostly filled out. You just need to review them, make some choices, and add a couple of videos/links for your congregants.

Use [Section Four](#) and its checklist for this path. It will point you to other sections of the guide as necessary.

2. Create Your Own Path

If you'd like to create your own online worship service that is entirely tailored to your congregation, but offers concrete steps and concrete activities to choose from, as well as an example template to work from, this path is for you.

Use [Section Five](#) and its checklist for this path. It will point you to other sections of the guide as necessary.

3. Grab and Go Path

If you already know what you want to do for your online services and just want inspiration for creating more meaningful, participatory, interactive online services and activities for your congregation, this path is for you.

Find ideas in [section one](#) for this path.

Scan [section two](#) and [three](#) and make sure you've covered your bases so to speak.

Scan the bulletins in [section four](#) for even more inspiration.

Section One: Creative Activities

Christian Practices

In my book [Always On](#), I discuss ways to engage different Christian practices online and in person. Check out chapter 6 for even more ideas.

Practice Confession

Directions: Light a candle. Have everyone confess to God in silence or on paper what they need forgiveness for or need to say “I am sorry” for. Read Colossians 1:13-15. Rip up the papers and throw them away. Blow out the candle.

***Kids note:** They could draw something they need to say I am sorry for or draw a time they told someone they were sorry. Help them to thank God for forgiving us and perhaps allow them to light and blow out the candle.

Practice Compassion

Read Luke 7. Write a letter to someone in a local nursing home/assisted living facility and another letter to someone in a local prison/jail. Call and/or look on websites to discern how to go about this. Even if it takes a little bit to get a pen pal at either facility, people who live in these places will be especially grateful to get letters right now, since they cannot have visitors.

***Kids note:** If the kids can write, have them write part of the letters too. If not, invite them to draw a picture on the letter.

Practice Celebration and Lament

Read Romans 12. Paul is explicit about the kind of relating children of God should embody. In verse fifteen, Paul encourages readers to “Rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15). Go online and find one person to rejoice with and one person to mourn with. Reply to them. Message them. Or go the extra mile and call them. If you don’t use social media, call a friend or family member and ask them to share a joy or sorrow with you.

***Kids note:** Invite your kids to call a friend or family member and ask them to share something they are joyful about and after they share to celebrate with them. Explain that God asks us to rejoice with other people as an act of love.

Practice Gratitude

Read Psalms 100. Create a list of things or a collage of things you are grateful to God for and put it up in your house. Or Upload a photo of something you are grateful to God for on social media.

Practice Peacebuilding

Read Matt. 5:43-48. If someone has recently hurt your feelings or made you angry, pray about your hurt/anger this week. Reach out to someone else and talk about how you are feeling.

Express how you feel to the person who has hurt you or made you angry. Express that you desire clarity, an apology, and if possible, reconciliation and/or to offer forgiveness.

If you get angry with someone online or at your house this coming week, get offline or walk away and take 5 deep breaths. Ask God to help you to be a person of love and to ask good questions and not make assumptions.

After you have had time, ask questions. Seek understanding. Say, "I am sorry" if you need to.

Express that you desire clarity, an apology, and if possible, reconciliation and/or to offer forgiveness.

Practice Fasting

Read Acts 13:1-3. Choose a block of time or day this week to fast from food or from social media. Throughout the time when you would eat or be on social media, take time to pray individually or as a family.

Spiritual Disciplines

In [Always On](#), I invite readers to use spiritual disciplines in order to reflect on new media from a Christian perspective. Check out the end of chapter 4 for how to do this.

Spoken Word

Invite someone in the group to share a spoken word poem or other type of poem they have written or that is close to their heart.

Viewing Art

Choose an art piece for congregants to look up online and view and discuss together. Provide directions if you do this.

Thanksgiving

Directions: Take some time to thank God and praise God for God is and what God has done in Christ Jesus. You may engage in this spiritual discipline by sharing stories, declaring your thankfulness, singing, and/or dancing.

God Moments

Directions:

During this spiritual discipline, you will spend 3-5 minutes in silence thinking back over your week.

Set a timer on someone's smart phone for 3-5 minutes.

Before starting the timer, have a group member read these questions aloud to the group. When did you notice God? Did God help you, speak to you, comfort you this past week? Begin the timer and provide silence.

After the timer goes off, invite everyone to share their thoughts.

Play-doh prayer

Directions: Find play-doh or clay (paper and drawing materials could be substituted) and be ready to use it during this guided meditation. Click [play-doh prayer](#), have a group member read the steps and invite everyone to do them alongside one another from your various homes.

Lord's Prayer

Post a version of the Lord's prayer (there are many online).

On the template, type or copy and paste the directions below.

Directions: Read this version of the Lord's Prayer aloud together.

Prayer Walk and Roll

Directions: Go on a 10 to 15 minute stroll and roll. Pray for your neighbors, schools, local non-profits and businesses, first responders, and local government officials either silently or aloud.

Joyful Prayer Walk and Roll

Directions: Go on a 10 to 15 minute stroll and roll. Thank God for your neighbors, schools, local non-profits and businesses, first responders, and local government officials. Rejoice over the place where you live. Rejoice over the people in your life.

Examen

Directions: Choose someone to lead the group in the following steps and use a smart phone as a timer.

1. *Presence.* Spend time in God's presence to calm/quiet oneself. (1-2 min)
2. *Invitation to the Holy Spirit.* Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. (1-3 min)
3. *Gratitude.* Review the previous twenty-four hours (online and in your house) with gratitude. (2-3 min). What are you thankful for?
4. *Review.* Review the previous twenty-four hours again, objectively, without judgment and without rationalizing or justifying, taking time to experience all the range of emotions in the presence of God. Think about these questions. (2-3 min)
When was I most loving/most able to receive love? When was I hurtful/unloving? When did I not feel loved?
5. *Examine.* Review the previous twenty-four hours again, examining your thoughts, reflections, and experiences (online and in your house). Ask yourself questions that prompt you to consider how present you were to God and to others. (2-3 min)
How did I interact with others? Was I able to be present in conversations? When was God present to me? When was I present to God's activity?
6. *Response.* Allow God to invite you to respond in some way to what you have seen and experienced during your time of prayer; be open to receiving what God has for you. (1-2 min).
7. Share what came up for you with others.

Ways to Read a Biblical Text

Responsive reading

Directions: Do a responsive reading of the text. Choose one person of the group to be the leader and the rest of the group will be the community. The leader reads a line of the text and then everyone else in the community reads the next line. Go back and forth until you have finished reading the text aloud together. Invite anyone who is able to stand for the reading.

Video reading

Create a video of a church member reading the text. Insert the video link into the words “biblical text.” I

Post the following directions in the bulletin:

Directions: Click and watch the video of a church member reading the text aloud.

Group member reading

Directions: Ask someone in the group to read the text aloud to the group.

Act it out

Directions: Choose someone to read the text aloud and then choose group members to act out the text for everyone.

Imaginative Prayer

Directions:

Choose someone to guide your group through this experience. Imaginative prayer works best with a biblical text that is a story. This exercise is great for all ages.

In the template give these directions or put in a video with someone going through and reading these steps and leaving time in between:

Imaginative prayer is a way to help individuals or groups imagine being a part of the stories in the Bible. Invite everyone to close their eyes and get into a comfortable position.

1. Invite participants to pay attention to the details—the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings of the event—as they are listening to the story.
3. Read (insert biblical text) aloud. Ask participants to silently reflect on questions like
 - What do you see in your surroundings?
 - What do you smell?
 - What sounds are you hearing?
 - What can you taste?
4. Read the story aloud again. Ask participants to silently reflect on questions like
 - Who are you in the story?
 - Is anyone or anything near you?

- What are you feeling?
 - Do you want to say something that has not been said in the story? If so, what do you want to say and whom are you talking to?
5. Read the story aloud a third time. Ask participants to silently reflect on questions like
- What happened before this?
 - What is going to happen next?
6. Invite the group to share aloud what they experienced.

Witness of Extravagant Love Actions

Porch Generosity

Leave goods on your front porch/outside your door that are important right now (e.g., canned goods, rice, toilet paper, diapers, wipes). Leave notes for your neighbors about the goods on your porch, explaining they are free. Express that you are praying they are safe and well.

Tip of Kindness

Call a local restaurant and ask the manager how you can leave an envelope of money of tips for the staff.

Look after kids or Look after Elders

Offer to Zoom/Skype/Facetime with someone's child/children and do an activity with them. Offer to talk on the phone or video conference with an elder in the community who lives alone.

Fill Pantry of Grocery Staff

Go to the grocery store and buy extra pantry goods/toiletries/children's goods and after buying them, either offer them to the grocery clerk or store manager of the grocery store to give to staff.

Or you could ask the clerk who helps you to name 3-5 things they really need right now, and then buy them, and give them to them.

Notes of Thankfulness

Write notes/draw pictures of gratitude for local first responders, gas station attendants, waste control workers, hospital staff, and the like who cannot work from home. Drop them off in a way that maintains social-distancing.

Create your Own

Go ahead! Imagine together as a team and create something people can do to imitate the love of Jesus.

Ideas for Connecting Generations and Households

CREATE MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OLDER ADULTS AND TEENS/KIDS.

- You can have them write letters to each other for a few months.
- You could have them teach skills to each other through video conferencing (e.g. Google hangouts). Skills like knitting, wood working, drawing. The skills-sharing and teaching could go both ways, adults teaching and learning as well as kids teaching and learning.

Possible steps.

1. Email or call households with teens and kids and ask who wants to have a pen pal or learn a new skill and/or is willing to teach an older adult a new skill.
2. Email or call households with older adults and ask who wants to have a pen pal or teach and/or learn a new skill.
3. Make a list and connect pen pals and skill sharers.
4. Give guidelines. Tell everyone who their partner is. Monitor the relationships.

CREATE AN ALL-CHURCH VIDEO CHALLENGE.

Post/email the challenge of the week. Have people submit videos by a certain day and time and then watch them and share some or all of them.

- Who has a great story to tell?
- Who can do stand-up comedy and give us all a good laugh?
- Who can make the most fun dance video?
- Who can make the most creative Tik Tok video?
- Who can create the most interesting music video?

CREATE AN ALL-CHURCH PHOTO CHALLENGE.

Post/email the photo challenge of the week. Have individuals, pairs, and households submit a photo by a certain day and time and then look at them and share some or all of them.

- Who can take the most beautiful food photo?
- Who can capture what it means to be a Christian?
- Who can take the funniest photo?
- Who can take the most inspiring photo?

CREATE HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES.

Invite families and roommates to share videos or photos of themselves finishing each challenge.

Possible Household Challenges:

- Conduct a photo scavenger hunt. The first household to post photos of everything on the list wins. Your list could include things like a photo of someone doing the Heisman stance, someone blow drying their hair, two people doing the running man and so on.
- Make wild cookies, something new, your own recipe.
- Memorize the books of the Bible and post a video of everyone reciting them together.
- Memorize five verses of the Bible about hope and share a video of them being read back to back.

Section Two: Ideas for Handling Important Church Elements

Sermons

- Use your smart phone to create a video that is 5 minutes or less.
- Use your computer and an application like QuickTime Player to create a video that is 20 minutes or less. If it is longer, just record your voice or do Facebook Live or another live streaming option like YouTube Live.
- Use your computer and an application like QuickTime Player to just record your voice (people will only hear you speaking and not see you). This is best for sermons that are less than 40 minutes.
- Use Facebook Live. Tell people how and when to watch.
- Use another Live Streaming Tool. Tell people how and when to watch.

Communion

You could create a video of a church leader doing the words of invitation and institution.

For taking communion:

- You could provide communion in boxes and leave them outside of the church for people to pick up on a particular day.
- You could share an email and number, so people who need a box delivered to their front porch can let you know. Ask them to email their address and make sure they know when it will arrive.
- If it aligns with your denomination, you can encourage people to partake in bread and juice/wine at their home after watching the video of a church leader doing the words of invitation and institution.

Pastoral care

Announcements are a great place to describe how people can get pastoral care during the coming weeks.

List Pastoral Care options (e.g., phone calls, Facetime, or video conference: Zoom or Skype).

Create a pastoral care team (or call on your existing team) so that one person does not take on the burden of talking with everyone.

Consider share an email and phone number where people can contact someone if they need food, diapers, wipes, or medicine or someone to help care for someone they regularly assist (children, elders, people living with disabilities).

Offering

Physical Giving Options

- Congregants can mail a check.
- Congregants can drop a check off in a secured box. Place the box in an accessible location outside.

Digital Giving Options

You can set up a way for your congregants to give online.

[What Churches Should Know about Digital Giving](#)

[This site compares options](#): PayPal, EasyTithe, Stripe, and Continue to Give

You can also checkout [Giving Tools](#) and [MoGiv](#)

If you use one of these online tools, put it on your website and/or email your congregants a link to it and guidelines for how to use it.

Section Three: Technical help

Create a small technology team

Email church leaders and/or congregants and ask them to help you to identify 3-5 people who can help you and other people at the church to use technology well, troubleshoot technology issues, make videos, and use video conferencing.

This is great time to use the expertise of teens and young adults who may know a lot about media. At the same time, don't be surprised if the people named are older adults.

Contact each of the people named and ask if they will serve on a technology team for the next 2 or 3 months.

Learn to use Online Tools

Click below to watch videos on how to use various tools.

Feel free to share these on your church's website and to email the links to your congregants.

- a. Beginner's guide to [Google Hangouts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3WouWiu7pl)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3WouWiu7pl>)
- b. Beginner's guide to [Zoom](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2pq4l1urXA)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2pq4l1urXA>)
- c. Beginner's guide to [Group Facetime](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSytFv0CRAI&list=PUrSvDunJEc1CME4-KvhW_3Q&index=182)
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSytFv0CRAI&list=PUrSvDunJEc1CME4-KvhW_3Q&index=182)
- d. Beginner's guide to [Skype](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRcb3uB3Jac) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRcb3uB3Jac>)
- e. Beginner's guide to [Google documents](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e771f9YYh4s)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e771f9YYh4s>)

Learn to Insert Hyperlinks

Learn how to insert a link “into” a word so it is clickable [here](#) (you can do this too!)

Basic directions for a mac for linking to a website or video by inserting a hyperlink into a word or several words:

1. Copy the URL/link of the video you want people to view.
2. Next, highlight the word or words you want the link to be associated with (scroll over the word/words to cover the words in a shade of light blue).
3. Next, click “insert” on the toolbar at the top of your computer screen.
4. A scroll-down menu will appear. Click “Hyperlink.”
5. Make sure “Web Page or File” is in blue. If not, click it.
6. Put/paste the link into the “Address” box.
7. Click “OK.”
8. The word/words should now be highlighted. When you click the word/s, it should take you to the website or video, whichever you have inserted.

Learn to Make Videos or do Voice Recordings

If you have never made a video before, I encourage you to video chat with someone who knows how to make videos so they can walk you through the steps of creating your first one.

You can make a video on your smart phone.

If you don't have an iPhone, simply Google: “how to make a video on my (fill in the kind of phone you have) phone” to learn how to make a video on the kind of phone you have.

For an iPhone Video:

Click the “camera” icon.

Scroll with your finger to “video.”

Click the camera with arrows icon in the lower right corner to change the phone view to show your face.

Press the red button to begin recording and **press it again** after you have said what you wanted to say in order to end the recording. It will automatically be saved in your photos.

To email or message the iPhone video to yourself or someone else or to share it on social media:

Click the “camera” icon again.

Click the image in the lower left-hand corner.

Click the “All Photos” in the upper right-hand corner and then find the video you just made.

Click the video.

Click the icon in the lower left-hand corner that looks like a box with an arrow going north.

Click the icon you want to use to send the video, either the “message” icon, the “email” icon, or the icon of the social media platform you want to use.

Type in the person’s name or the email address and click the blue arrow to send.

If you want to send it through social media, follow the prompts after clicking the social media icon.

You can make a video on your computer/lap top.

Record a video on QuickTime player on your mac by clicking this link:

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/721562/pages/quicktime-player>

If you don’t have a mac, simply Google: “how to make a video on my (fill in the kind of computer you have)” to learn how to make a video on the kind of computer you have.

Upload Your Video to YouTube:

If you want to put your video on YouTube so you can give it a link and people can easily find it, you need to create a YouTube account.

You can also watch [this video](#) on **how to upload a video to YouTube.**

Creating multigenerational groups to worship online together

Creating multigenerational groups to worship with one another online will help your congregants to get to know new people, encourage relationships across generations, and will help to ensure that **no one is forgotten about or neglected** in the coming weeks, especially those who lack access to devices or don't know how to use social media or video conferencing. I have listed four ways to do this below.

WAY ONE

If your church **has existing small groups** that are multigenerational, you can use these for the online services. If they are not truly multigenerational or if half or more of your church does not participate in small groups, I encourage you to create new ones through way two or three below. This is an opportunity to nurture new relationships in your community.

Also, if you decide to use small groups you already have, still use **way two** or **way three** below *to invite congregants to participate who are not already in small groups.*

After you have done this, make sure to also do what is listed under **Wrap Up** below.

WAY TWO

***Note:** This way takes less time than ways three or four, but it is less thorough and would mean putting people into groups that may not want to participate, not getting enough information from congregants, and giving more work to group leaders.

Ask a group of church leaders to help you create groups from your membership/congregation list.

Keep in mind people with disabilities. For example, if someone needs another person to sign for them during the service, be sure to put them in a group where this is possible.

After you have done this, make sure to also do what is listed under **Wrap Up** below.

WAY THREE

Create an Excel spreadsheet.

- The first column will be for someone's first and last name or family name.
- The second column will be for yes or no.
- The third column will be for devices.
- The fourth column will be for titles of tools the person or family wants/needs to learn how to use.
- The fifth column will be for an email address. If you already have it, type it in.
- The sixth column will be for a phone number. If you already have it, type it in.

Email and/or call every congregant to ask if they want to be put into a group for the online series.

- Type their name or household last name into the spreadsheet.
- Ask if the person/household would like to join an online worship group.
- Type yes or no in the second column.
- If they say yes, ask if they have access to a *smart* phone and/or laptop and type in the third column what they have access to: *smart* phone, laptop, computer, flip phone or type "no device."
- If they don't have a *smart* device (only a flip phone or landline), tell them you will work on getting them connected to a group and/or have someone share a device with them.
- If they have a smart phone and/or laptop, ask if they want or need to learn how to use a video conferencing tool. Explain where they can find links to videos to watch on your church's website.
- Make a note of what they want to learn in the fourth column (Google Hangouts, Facetime, Zoom, Google documents, or Skype or any other tool you want them to use).
- You can also tell them a team member from your technology team will be in touch with them.
- If you need the person/household's email and/or phone number, ask for it. These things will be given to group leaders to contact them for participating in the group.

After you have made an excel spreadsheet, work with other team members to **create groups that are intentionally multigenerational**. I don't think groups (including all members of a household) should have more than 10-15 people so everyone can participate in each online service.

Keep in mind people with disabilities. For example, if someone needs another person to sign for them during the service, be sure to put them in a group where this is possible.

After you have done this, make sure to also do what is listed under **Wrap Up** below.

WAY FOUR

[Create a Google form](#) that can be shared with the email list of your church members and/or on your church website. On the Google form, create questions that: ask people for their name, whether they want to be a part of a group (yes or no), to choose from a multiple choice list what devices they have access to, and from a multiple choice list to check what they need help learning how to use: Google Hangouts, Facetime, Zoom, Google documents, or Skype (or any other tool you want them to use).

Even if people say “no” to joining a group, this is helpful information. That way, you will have the information you need to determine that they do not need to be followed up on.

If you look at the list of those who have filled out the form and notice names of regular attendees are missing, email or call them and ask them the questions (see way one above).

After you have made a data sheet integrating data from all of the submitted Google forms, work with other team members to **create groups that are intentionally multigenerational**. I don't think groups (including all members of a household) should have more than 10-15 people so everyone can participate in each online service.

Keep in mind people with disabilities. For example, if someone needs another person to sign for them during the service, be sure to put them in a group where this is possible.

After you have done this, make sure to also do what is listed under **Wrap Up** below.

WRAP UP—last things to do before your groups start worshipping

After you have done way one, two, three, or four engage in the final steps of Group creation.

Designate a leader for each group who is in charge of contacting members/households to let them know they are in their group, creating Google Hangouts, Zoom, Skype, or Facetime meetings with the group, depending on the resources of the group and deciding what time(s) the group will meet.

Give each one of your technology team members a few groups to be in charge of. They will answer questions, seek answers to questions, troubleshoot with groups, and help people share devices.

Email the list of groups and the leader of each group's name and phone or email to all of the congregants who are participating (just in case).

Provide an email or phone number on the church website homepage so that people who are not part of a group can contact church leadership to join one.

Section Four: LOW STRESS PATH

Here's how this works...

In this section, you'll find ***bulletin templates for five online, participatory services*** which have been created for your community.

These bulletin templates are based on the lectionary texts for March 22-April 19. The lectionary is a pre-selected collection of scriptural readings. You can use different biblical texts if you like. Just be aware that the questions and story prompt for each week are based on the biblical text. So if you change the text, you will likely want to change the questions and story prompt too.

[*The bulletin for week 4 is meant for Easter.*](#) It can be used at another time with modifications, but if you want to think creatively about Easter, this is the bulletin to use for Easter Sunday.

Many parts of these bulletins could be used for online youth groups or kids' gatherings as well.

If an element in the bulletin is not familiar to you, consider whether it might be an interesting, new way for church members to connect with God and each other. If you don't like what has been chosen for a specific element, you can check out the other ideas in [section one](#) and swap things out. The checklist actually prompts you to check out other ideas for each element in the bulletin. Of course, your team can delete any element of the bulletin, if upon reflection your team feels like it won't work for your congregation.

Most of the elements of the bulletin are chosen and outlined in these bulletin templates. But if you want to use these bulletins, you will still need to create a welcome video and/or a sermon and you will want to go through the step by step [checklist](#) to make sure everything is complete and works and is the right choice for your community.

You can print the step by step [checklist](#) and then follow it in order to create your online, participatory worship service in a low stress way.

In planning the weeks ahead, ***I encourage you to go ahead and reach out*** to kids, teens, and adults and ask them to submit videos to you that are related to each week's theme. Their videos could be of them dancing, miming, doing spoken word poetry or making/showing an art piece or playing music or something else creative that congregants come up with. You can use their videos for your online services.

Remember, at the heart of this guide is inviting participation, meaningful interaction, and connection with God's love and presence.

These services are ***meant to be engaged in multigenerational groups of 10 to 15 people*** who use video conferencing (e.g., Facetime, Google Hangouts, Zoom) and/or phone calls to worship

together. See [section three](#) for ways to create multigenerational groups and ensure everyone has a device to use and a way to learn to use the device/tool necessary to join the service. Do your best to ensure that people living with disabilities can be a part of a group that cares well for them (e.g. someone who knows sign language is in a group with someone who would like interpretation).

You don't have to create groups, but without them, some congregants might feel left out or not have anyone to worship alongside of.

I encourage you to do your best to make sure that everyone is worshipping with someone and has an opportunity to participate in the activities in your worship service with at least one other person, even if just digitally.

Thanks for all you do to invest in the lives of children, youth, and adults.

WEEK ONE BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video (click the words “welcome video” to watch the video)

Eat together

Take 10 or 15 minutes to eat a snack or have a cup of coffee or juice and talk together about what is going on in your lives.

***Kids note:** Consider letting the kids or teens talk to each other on a different device.

Music Videos (click and listen or sing along)

[It is Well](#)

[All to Jesus I Surrender](#)

[We Offer Praise](#)

***Kids note:** Teach this song to kids in the group. Everyone sing along!

[My God is so Great](#)

Spiritual Discipline: *Lord’s Prayer OR Thanksgiving*

Thanksgiving

Directions: Take some time to thank God and praise God for God is and what God has done in Christ Jesus. You may engage in this spiritual discipline by sharing stories, declaring your thankfulness, singing, and/or dancing.

Lord’s Prayer

Directions: Read the following version of the Lord’s Prayer *aloud together*.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those that sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***Kids note:** This is a great time to teach kids the Lord’s Prayer or to teach them one line. Invite them to practice the one line in front of the group. You could teach them motions instead too.

Biblical Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Directions: Ask two people in the group to read the text aloud to the rest of the group.

Reflections on the Text (click the words “Reflections on the Text” to watch the video)

Talk back

If you are used to saying “Amen,” when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a phone call. Say “Amen.” Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Directions: Answer these questions with your group.

1. What sentence are you drawn to in the story in 1 Samuel 16:1-13?
2. Have you ever been passed over, not chosen? What happened? How did you feel? (1 Samuel 16:7)
3. Have you ever sensed God telling you to do something or felt in your gut that the Spirit was prompting you to choose someone or something? What happened? (1 Samuel 16:12)

Next, invite everyone in the group to tell a short story. *Tell about a time when someone saw something in you and it made a difference in your life.* (1 Samuel 16:12-13).

***Kids note:** If you have kids in the group, include them as much as possible in the questions and storytelling time.

Share & Pray

Directions:

Invite each group member to share something you are joyful about or something you are sad about.

Next, share prayer requests with one another.

Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Engage: *Practice Compassion*

Read Luke 7. Write a letter to someone in a local nursing home/assisted living facility and another letter to someone in a local prison/jail. Call and/or look on websites to discern how to go about this. Even if it takes a little bit to get a pen pal at either facility, people who live in these places will be especially grateful to get letters right now, since they cannot have visitors.

***Kids note:** If the kids can write, have them write part of the letters too. If not, invite them to draw a picture on the letter.

Witness to God’s Extravagant Love: *Tip of Kindness*

Call a local restaurant and ask the manager how you can leave an envelope of money of tips for the staff.

Announcements

WEEK TWO BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video (click the words “welcome video” to watch the video)

Eat together

Take 10 or 15 minutes to eat a snack or have a cup of coffee or juice and talk together about what is going on in your lives.

Kids note: Consider letting the kids or teens talk to each other on a different device.

Music Videos (click and listen or sing along)

[The Call](#)

[You Are the Living Word](#)

[Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus](#)

***Kids note:** Teach this song to kids in the group. Everyone sing along!

[He’s Got the Whole World](#)

Spiritual Discipline: *Play-doh Prayer or Examen*

***Kids note:** Play-doh Prayer is better for groups with kids than Examen.

Directions for Play-doh prayer: Find play-doh or clay (paper and drawing materials could be substituted) and be ready to use it during this guided meditation. Click [play-doh prayer](#), have a group member read the steps and invite everyone to do them alongside one another from your various homes.

Directions for Examen: Choose someone to lead the group in the following steps and use a smart phone as a timer.

1. *Presence.* Spend time in God’s presence to calm/quiet oneself. (1-2 min)
2. *Invitation to the Holy Spirit.* Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. (1-3 min)
3. *Gratitude.* Review the previous twenty-four hours (online and in your house) with gratitude. (2-3 min). What are you thankful for?
4. *Review.* Review the previous twenty-four hours again, objectively, without judgment and without rationalizing or justifying, taking time to experience all the range of emotions in the presence of God. Think about these questions. (2-3 min)
When was I most loving/most able to receive love? When was I hurtful/unloving? When did I not feel loved?
5. *Examine.* Review the previous twenty-four hours again, examining your thoughts, reflections, and experiences (online and in your house). Ask yourself questions that prompt you to consider how present you were to God and to others. (2-3 min)

How did I interact with others? Was I able to be present in conversations? When was God present to me? When was I present to God's activity?

6. *Response.* Allow God to invite you to respond in some way to what you have seen and experienced during your time of prayer; be open to receiving what God has for you. (1-2 min).

7. Share what came up for you with others.

Biblical Text: John 11:1-6, 17-45

This week *Act out* the text.

Directions: Choose someone to read the text aloud and then choose group members to act out the text for everyone.

Reflections on the Text (click the words "Reflections on the Text" to watch the video)

Talk back

If you are used to saying "Amen," when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a phone call. Say "Amen." Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Directions: Answer these questions with your group.

1. Have you ever felt like needed God to come or to answer a prayer and felt like God waited too long? (John 11: 21, 32)
2. How does it make you feel that Jesus wept? Why do you think he wept? (John 11:34-36)

Next, invite everyone in the group to tell a short story. *Tell about a time when* God answered one of your prayers or surprised you with a miracle. (John 11:40-45)

***Kids note:** If you have kids in the group, include them as much as possible in the questions and storytelling time.

Share & Pray

Directions: Invite each group member to share something you are joyful about or something you are sad about.

Next, share prayer requests with one another.

Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Engage: *Practice Celebration and Lament*

Read Romans 12. Paul is explicit about the kind of relating children of God should embody. In verse fifteen, Paul encourages readers to “Rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15). Go online and find one person to rejoice with and one person to mourn with. Reply to them. Message them. Or go the extra mile and call them. If you don’t use social media, call a friend or family member and ask them to share a joy or sorrow with you.

***Kids note:** Invite your kids to call a friend or family member and ask them to share something they are joyful about and after they share to celebrate with them. Explain that God asks us to rejoice with other people as an act of love.

Witness to God’s Extravagant Love: *Fill Pantry of Grocery Staff*

Fill Pantry of Grocery Staff

Go to the grocery store and buy extra pantry goods/toiletries/children’s goods and after buying them, either offer them to the grocery clerk or store manager of the grocery store to give to staff.

Or you could ask the clerk who helps you to name 3-5 things they really need right now, and then buy them, and give them to them.

Announcements

WEEK THREE BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video (click the words “welcome video” to watch the video)

Eat together

Take 10 or 15 minutes to eat a snack or have a cup of coffee or juice and talk together about what is going on in your lives.

Kids note: Consider letting the kids or teens talk to each other on a different device.

Music Videos (click the titles and listen or sing along)

[Hallelujah](#)

[Total Praise](#)

[How Great Thou Art](#)

Kids note: Teach this song to kids in the group. Everyone sing along!

[Peace Like a River](#)

Spiritual Discipline: Prayer Stroll and Roll

Directions: Go on a 10 to 15 minute stroll and roll.

You can make **palm branches** from paper beforehand and wave them as you walk.

Pray for your neighbors, schools, local non-profits and businesses, first responders, and local government officials either silently or aloud.

Biblical Text: Matthew 21:1-11

Directions for the whole group: Do *Imaginative Prayer* as a way of reading the text this week. Choose someone to guide your group through this experience.

Directions for the leader of the group:

1. Invite everyone to close their eyes and get into a comfortable position.
2. Invite participants to pay attention to the details—the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings of the event—as they are listening to the story.
3. Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud. Ask participants to silently reflect on these questions:
 - What do you see in your surroundings?
 - What do you smell?
 - What sounds are you hearing?
4. Read the story aloud again. Ask participants to silently reflect on these questions:
 - Who are you in the story?
 - Is anyone or anything near you?
 - What are you feeling?

- Do you want to say something that has not been said in the story? If so, what do you want to say and whom are you talking to?
5. Read the story aloud a third time. Ask participants to silently reflect on these questions
 - What happened before this?
 - What is going to happen next?
 6. Invite the group to share aloud what they experienced.

Reflections on the Text (click the words “Reflections on the Text” to watch the video)

Talk back

If you are used to saying “Amen,” when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a phone call. Say “Amen.” Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Directions: Answer these questions with your group.

1. What does humility look like to you? How is humility shown? (Matthew 21:5)

Next, invite everyone in the group to tell a short story. *Tell about a time when* God came or an answer to prayer came in a way you did not expect. (Matthew 21:7)

Kids note: If you have kids in the group, include them as much as possible in the questions and storytelling time.

Share & Pray

Directions:

Invite each group member to share something you are joyful about or something you are sad about.

Next, share prayer requests with one another.

Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Witness to God’s Extravagant Love: Notes of Thankfulness

Write notes/draw pictures of gratitude for local first responders, gas station attendants, waste control workers, hospital staff, and the like who cannot work from home. Drop them off in a way that maintains social-distancing.

Engage: *Practice Fasting*

Read Acts 13:1-3. Choose a block of time or day this week to fast from food or from social media. Throughout the time when you would eat or be on social media, take time to pray individually or as a family.

Announcements

WEEK FOUR BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video (click the words “welcome video” to watch the video)

Music Videos (click and listen or sing along and feel free to dance)

[My Redeemer Lives](#)

[Psalm 23 \(I Am Not Alone\)](#)

[How Can it Be?](#)

[All My Hope](#)

[Because he Lives](#)

***Kids note:** Teach this song to kids in the group. Everyone sing along!

[I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy](#)

Spiritual Discipline: *Spoken Word Poetry, Play-doh Prayer and/or Joyful Prayer Stroll and Roll*

Directions for Spoken Word

Invite someone in the group share a spoken word poem or other type of poem they have written. Or invite a group member to read a poem that they have not written, but is close to their heart.

Directions for Play-doh Prayer

Find play-doh or clay (paper and drawing materials could be substituted) and be ready to use it during this guided meditation. Click [play-doh prayer](#), have a group member read the steps and invite everyone to do them alongside one another from your various homes.

Directions for Joyful Prayer Stroll and Roll

Directions: Go on a 10 to 15 minute stroll and roll. Thank God for your neighbors, schools, local non-profits and businesses, first responders, and local government officials. Rejoice over the place where you live. Rejoice over the people in your life.

Biblical Text: John 20:1-18

Directions: Do a responsive reading of the text. Choose one person of the group to be the leader and read the leader lines and the rest of the group should read the community lines. Invite anyone who is able to stand for the reading.

Leader: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

Community: So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Leader: Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

Community: The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

Leader: He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Community: Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

Leader: and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Community: Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

Leader: for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Community: Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Leader: But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

Community: and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

Leader: They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Community: When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Leader: Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Community: Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Leader: Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Community: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflections on the Text (click the words "Reflections on the Text" to watch the video)

Talk back

If you are used to saying "Amen," when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a phone call. Say "Amen." Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Directions: Answer these questions with your group.

1. What is your favorite Easter memory?
2. What do you love about Jesus' resurrection story?

Next, invite everyone in the group to tell a short story. *Tell about the time when you first realized God loved you.*

***Kids note:** If you have kids in the group, include them as much as possible in the questions and storytelling time.

Share & Pray

Directions:

Invite each group member to share why Easter brings you joy.

Next, share prayer requests with one another.

Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Eat together

Take 30 minutes to eat a meal and talk together about what is going on in your lives.

***Kids note:** Consider letting the kids or teens talk to each other on a different device.

Witness to God's Extravagant Love: *Look after Kids and Elders OR Create your Own*

Look after Kids

Offer to Zoom/Skype/Facetime with someone's child/children and do an activity with them.

Look after Elders

Talk on the phone or video conference with an elder in the community who lives alone.

Create your Own

Go ahead! Imagine together and do something together for other people either online or in person to imitate the love of Jesus.

Announcements

WEEK FIVE BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video (click the words “welcome video” to watch the video)

Eat together

Take 10 or 15 minutes to eat a snack or have a cup of coffee or juice and talk together about what is going on in your lives.

***Kids note:** Consider letting the kids or teens talk to each other on a different device.

Music Videos (click and listen or sing along)

[In Awe of You](#)

[Thank You Lord For All You've Done For Me](#)

[He's Able](#)

[Great is thy Faithfulness](#)

***Kids note:** Teach this song to kids in the group. Everyone sing along!

[This Little Light of Mine](#)

Spiritual Discipline: *God Moments*

During this spiritual discipline, you will spend 3 minutes in silence thinking back over your week.

Directions:

Set a timer on someone's smart phone for 3 minutes.

Before starting the timer, have a group member read these questions aloud to the group. When did you notice God? Did God help you, speak to you, comfort you this past week?

Begin the timer and provide silence.

After the timer goes off, invite everyone to share their thoughts.

***Kids note:** Kids could draw what happened during the past week. They could draw a time when they were helped or comforted.

Biblical Text: Psalm 40:5-10

Directions: Ask two people in the group to read the text aloud to the rest of the group.

Reflections on the Text (click the words “Reflections on the Text” to watch the video)

Talk back

If you are used to saying “Amen,” when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a

phone call. Say “Amen.” Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Directions: Answer these questions with your group.

1. When you think about great things God has done, what comes to your mind (Psalm 40:5)?
2. When have you been delighted to do God’s will, to do something you felt called to do, as a Christian (Psalm 40:8)?

Next, invite everyone in the group to tell a short story. *Tell about a time when* God been faithful to you, your friends, or your family? (Psalm 40:10)

***Kids note:** If you have kids in the group, include them as much as possible in the questions and storytelling time.

Share & Pray

Directions:

Invite each group member to share something you are joyful about or something you are sad about.

Next, share prayer requests with one another.

Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Engage: *Practice Gratitude*

Read Psalms 100. Create a list of things or a collage of things you are grateful to God for and put it up in your house. Or upload a photo of something you are grateful to God for on social media.

Witness to God’s Extravagant Love: *Porch Generosity*

Leave goods on your front porch/outside your door that are important right now (e.g., canned goods, rice, toilet paper, diapers, wipes). Leave notes for your neighbors about the goods on your porch, explaining they are free. Express that you are praying they are safe and well.

Announcements

CHECKLIST FOR *LOW STRESS*

Use this checklist to create videos for the ready-made bulletin and edit as necessary. You can copy and paste it onto your computer to use each week or print a new checklist for each week.

Steps	Check mark and/or Notes
<p>Scan the bulletin template. If something is not familiar to you, consider whether it might be an interesting, new way for church members to connect with God and each other. You will have opportunities during other steps to consider other ideas.</p>	
<p>Keep in mind people living with disabilities as you create your online service. Alter spiritual disciplines, practices, and so on to be as inclusive as possible. I have aimed to keep in mind various denominations, worship styles, age groups, and persons living with disabilities but I need your help to ensure these services are as inclusive as possible.</p>	
<p>Review the spiritual discipline of the week. See Spiritual Discipline list in section one for other ideas. Feel free to do another spiritual discipline that is not on the list.</p>	
<p>Review the biblical text reading style. See reading options in section one for other ideas. Feel free to create your own.</p>	
<p>Review the practice of the week. See Christian Practices list in section one for for other ideas. Feel free to do another historic Christian practice.</p>	
<p>Review the witness action of the week. See witness actions list in section one for for other ideas. Feel free to create your own.</p>	
<p>Create a welcome video. Ideas: Greet everyone—children, youth, adults, newcomers, and then encourage people, and give an opening prayer. You can write out your greeting and then record yourself sharing it. See How to make a video if you need help.</p>	

<p>Insert a hyperlink into the words “Welcome Video” on your template that links the words “Welcome Video” to the video you made. See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Click the music video titles. Decide if you want to use them, delete one, and/or choose other videos. If you want to choose other videos, type the title of the song into the template under Music Videos and then insert your link into the song title. See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Create a video of a church leader reflecting on the biblical text OR write directions for your congregation regarding when you will be on Facebook Live or live streaming the reflection/sermon and provide links and directions. If your video is longer than five minutes, record it on your computer instead of your phone. If it is longer than 20 minutes, I suggest using Facebook live. See How to make a video if you need help.</p>	
<p>If you created a video on the text, insert a hyperlink into the words “Reflections on the Text” on the template that links the words “Reflections on the Text” to the video that was made. See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Decide if you want to modify the directions underneath “Share & Pray.” Perhaps you want to create a place online for people to share requests or joys and sorrows. If so, post link(s) to the appropriate google documents or social media pages and/or share the church’s Instagram handle underneath “Share & Pray” in the bulletin and give directions on what to do. See guide to a Google document.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Offering” in the template post directions for how participants can give a tithe. See Offering ideas in section two.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Announcements” in the template, post announcements about the church’s life together. See pastoral care ideas in section two.</p>	
<p>At some point in the template, you could add Communion. If you do, provide directions for taking communion. See communion ideas in section two.</p>	
<p>At some point in the template, you could add a Video of church members miming, dancing, doing</p>	

<p>spoken word poetry, making/showing an art piece, or playing music. If you do add one, provide information for congregants so they know what they are viewing and/or what to do.</p>	
<p>Scan the bulletin one last time. Delete elements you don't want to use or rearrange it as necessary.</p>	
<p>Read through the directions for each part of the bulletin and make sure they are clear.</p>	
<p>Make sure every link works. Click every link in the bulletin and make sure it is right and the videos are loading.</p>	
<p>Change the title of the bulletin. Add your church's information that would normally go on the front and back of the bulletin.</p>	
<p>Post the bulletin (with necessary videos, links, and information) on your church's webpage's homepage and also email it to your congregants and post it on your church's social media pages (e.g. Facebook page).</p>	
<p>Provide directions on the time and day people should meet for the service. Will group leaders tell groups when to meet or are designated times listed somewhere? If the church is not overseeing groups, can people do the service any time and any day? Will everyone meet at once and break at the same time for the sermon if it's being live streamed? Or can people still do the service whenever and watch it later? Be as clear as possible.</p>	

Section Five: CREATE YOUR OWN PATH

Here's how this works...

On the next page, there is one [example bulletin template](#) for creating *online, participatory services*. Most of the elements have *not been chosen* for this bulletin template (see the low stress section above for templates that are mostly filled in).

You can print and use the step by step [checklist](#) to fill out the example template each week.

You may want to scan the bulletins in the *low stress* section above to get an idea of how I imagine filling out the bulletin. **The bulletin for week four in the *Low Stress* section is meant for Easter.** If you want help thinking creatively about Easter, refer to [the week four bulletin](#) in the section above.

In planning the weeks ahead, ***I encourage you to go ahead and reach out*** to kids, teens, and adults and ask them to submit videos to you that are related to each week's theme. Their videos could be of them dancing, miming, doing spoken word poetry or making/showing an art piece or playing music or something else creative that congregants come up with. You can use their videos for your online services.

Remember, at the heart of this guide is inviting participation, meaningful interaction, and connection with God's love and presence.

These services are ***meant to be engaged in multigenerational groups of 10 to 15 people*** who use video conferencing (e.g., Facetime, Google Hangouts, Zoom) and/or phone calls to worship together. See [section three](#) for ways to create multigenerational groups and ensure everyone has a device to use and a way to learn to use the device/tool necessary to join the service. **You don't have to create groups**, but without them, some congregants might feel left out or not have anyone to worship alongside of or their needs may go unmet. **I encourage you** to do your best to make sure that everyone is worshipping with someone and has an opportunity to participate in the activities in your worship service with at least one other person, even if just digitally. Your services are going to be fantastic. Thanks for all you do to invest in the lives of children, youth, and adults.

EXAMPLE BULLETIN TEMPLATE

Welcome Video

Music Videos (click and listen or sing along)

Spiritual Discipline

Biblical Text

Reflections on the Text

Talk back

If you are used to saying “Amen,” when listening to a sermon, responding to the sermon in a concrete way (like going down the aisle or going to the back of the church to talk to a church leader), contact the person who gave this reflection on social media or through an email or a phone call. Say “Amen.” Talk with them about what they said. Share how it impacted you. Ask for prayer. Share what is on your heart with others in the group around you too.

Talk Together

Share & Pray

Directions: Invite each group member to share something you are joyful about or something you are sad about. Next, share prayer requests with one another. Finally, pray together about what has been shared. Choose one or more people (invite kids or teens too!) to pray.

Offering

Engage

Witness to God’s Extravagant Love

Announcements

Eat together

CHECKLIST FOR *CREATE YOUR OWN*

Use this checklist to tailor the sample bulletin template provided for your community. You can copy and paste it onto your computer to use each week or print a new checklist for each week.

Steps	Check mark and/or Notes
<p>Copy and paste the sample bulletin template from the <i>Create Your Own</i> Bulletin section into a Word document and save it on your computer. Check out the ideas for each element in the bulletin before deleting the element. This is a great time for congregants to try something new!</p>	
<p>Keep in mind people living with disabilities as you create your online service. Alter spiritual disciplines, practices, and so on to be as inclusive as possible. I have aimed to keep in mind various denominations, worship styles, age groups, and persons living with disabilities but I need your help to ensure these services are even more inclusive.</p>	
<p>Create a welcome video. Ideas: Greet everyone—children, youth, adults, newcomers, and then encourage people, and give an opening prayer. You can write out your greeting and then record yourself sharing it. <i>See How to make a video if you need help.</i></p>	
<p>Insert a hyperlink into the words “Welcome Video” on your template that links the words “Welcome Video” to the video you made. <i>See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</i></p>	
<p>Choose music videos for the service OR invite congregants to share videos of them playing hymns they have written.</p>	
<p>Type the title of the song into the template under Music Videos and then insert your link into the song title. <i>See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</i></p>	
<p>Choose a spiritual discipline for people to engage in this week. You can encourage them to try it together during worship and then practice it daily this week.</p>	

<p>See Spiritual Discipline list in section one for ideas. Feel free to do another spiritual discipline that is not on the list.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Spiritual Discipline” in the template, copy and paste your choice or post your own directions. You could also create a video guiding the groups in the spiritual discipline. If you create a video, insert a hyperlink in the words “Spiritual Discipline” in the template. See How to make a video if you need help & insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Choose a biblical text for groups to read and reflect on.</p>	
<p>Type the biblical text reference into the template next to the words, biblical text. For example: Biblical Text: Matthew 2:1-14</p>	
<p>Choose a biblical text reading style. See reading options in section one for ideas. Feel free to create your own.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Biblical Text” in the template, post directions or create a video guide for participants related to reading the biblical text.</p>	
<p>Create a video of a church leader reflecting on the biblical text OR write directions for your congregation regarding when you will be on Facebook Live or live streaming the reflection/sermon and provide links and directions. If your video is longer than ten minutes, record it on your computer instead of your phone. If it is longer than 20 minutes, I suggest using Facebook live. See How to make a video if you need help.</p>	
<p>If you created a video on the text, insert a hyperlink into the words “Reflections on the Text” on the template that links the words “Reflections on the Text” to the video that was made. See insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Review the Talk Back section and edit as necessary for your congregation. Perhaps provide ways they can contact the creator of the video on the biblical text (e.g. Facebook live comment, message, email, text, call).</p>	
<p>Create a list of 2-3 questions about the theme of the week/the biblical text for the group to discuss.</p>	

<p>Create a storytelling prompt that is related to the theme/issues in the text. For example, “Tell me about a time when” ... <i>you needed help and help arrived.</i></p>	
<p>Underneath “Talk Together” in the template post directions for participants with the questions and storytelling prompt your team has come up with.</p>	
<p>Decide if you want to modify the directions underneath “Share & Pray.” Perhaps you want to create a place online for people to share requests or joys and sorrows. If so, post link(s) to the appropriate google documents or social media pages and/or share the church’s Instagram handle underneath “Share & Pray” in the bulletin and give directions on what to do. See guide to a Google document.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Offering” in the template post directions for how participants can give a tithe. See Offering ideas in section two.</p>	
<p>Choose a practice of the week. See Christian Practices list in section one for ideas. Feel free to do another historic Christian material practice.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Engage” in the template, copy and paste your choice or post your own practice and directions. You could also create a video guiding the groups in understanding the practice. If you create a video, insert a hyperlink in the words “Engage” in the template. See How to make a video if you need help & insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Choose a witness act of the week. See witness actions list in section one for ideas. Feel free to create your own.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Witness to God’s Extravagant Love” in the template, copy and paste your choice or create your own and post your own directions. You could also create a video guiding the groups in understanding your call to action. If you create a video, insert a hyperlink in the words “Witness to God’s Extravagant Love” in the template.</p>	

<p>See How to make a video if you need help & insert a hyperlink if you need to learn.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Announcements” in the template, post announcements about the church’s life together. See pastoral care thoughts in section two.</p>	
<p>Underneath “Eat Together,” post directions like “Take 10 minutes to have a snack and talk together” or “Enjoy a cup coffee and chat.”</p>	
<p>At some point in the template, you could add Communion. If you do, provide directions for taking communion. See communion ideas in section two.</p>	
<p>At some point in the template, you could add a Video of church members miming, dancing, doing spoken word poetry, making/showing an art piece, or playing music. If you do add one, provide information for congregants so they know what they are viewing and/or what to do.</p>	
<p>Scan the bulletin one last time. Delete or rearrange it as necessary.</p>	
<p>Read through the directions for each part of the bulletin and make sure they are clear.</p>	
<p>Make sure every link works. Click every link in the bulletin and make sure it is right and the videos are loading.</p>	
<p>Change the title of the bulletin. Add your church’s information that would normally go on the front and back of the bulletin.</p>	
<p>Post the bulletin (with necessary videos, links, and information) on your church’s webpage’s homepage and also email it to your congregants and post it on your church’s social media pages (e.g. Facebook page).</p>	
<p>Provide directions on the time and day people should meet for the service. Will group leaders tell groups when to meet or are designated times listed somewhere? If the church is not overseeing groups, can people do the service any time and any day? Will everyone meet at once and break at the same time for the sermon if it’s being live streamed? Or can people still do the service whenever and watch it later? Be as clear as possible.</p>	

