LIVE STREAM PRESENTATION FOR ISC DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTERS:
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&
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St Paul UCC began our ‘technology ministry’ in 2001 with a stretched out bedsheet hung in the front corner of our Nave, with a small portable projector putting words on the ‘screen’.

Some months later we ‘progressed’ to a white board hung in that same corner, in place of the sheet. That lasted for about a year.

Then, through a generous donation, we were able to install to overhead, high clarity projectors with screens in the front of the Nave, on each side. Our technology desk was set up in the balcony and thus we were ‘in business’. We started making DVD’s for our shut in and nursing home bound members.

That served well for a number of years, until the bulbs started burning out in the projectors, which were a couple of hundred dollars each. We then replaced those projectors with LED digital screens on either side of the Nave, with direct feed from a computer in the balcony.

As the LED digital screens aged out, we were able to replace them with HD screens. After a great deal of research, we decided to update our sound system and expand our Sunday morning offerings to include our own YouTube channel and Live Stream feed. This began in October of 2018.

When the Covid-19 pandemic and ‘shelter in place’ order took hold last March, the question was not, ‘How do we get our worship services out to the community?’, but, rather, ‘How do we upload from home what we have been doing at church?’
PTZ Optics digital video camera
Berringer x32 Compact Digital mixer
The cost of our Live Stream equipment and set up, which now includes overhead microphones in the Nave for better congregational sound during hymns, anthems, handbells, scripture readings and prayers, is probably in the neighborhood of $15,000.00. Don’t let that frighten you. This has all been brought together piece by piece, year by year. Remember, we started with a bedsheets. The beauty of Live Stream is that you can do it with any digital device, including your home laptop. That is how we ‘videoed’ during the shelter in place. All you need beyond that is a production program, most of which are very reasonable.

For the shelter in place productions, I used NCH Video Pad, Video Editor, which is very reasonable to purchase and EASY to use. In our worship home at St. Paul, our digital mixer, blends video and audio for our direct feed to YouTube.

We are in the beginning stages of moving towards adding another camera in our facility, to give a change of perspective for worship services, funerals and weddings. We are also moving towards adding a production program which will allow us to seamlessly switch between cameras while Live Streaming.

We have quit making DVD’s for those at home. Most have access to our Live Stream and, for those who do not, we have a station set up in a room of our facility where members and guests can access the services at any time.

Although one person can run the current system, it is much easier for one person to run the Easy Worship program for in house screens, while also tending the sound board, as the other person manages the camera and keeps up with movement in the services.
Positives to Live Streaming Via YouTube

1. Anyone going to your YouTube channel on the web has instant access to the service you are doing AND all previous services you choose to allow up on your channel.

2. Anyone can access you from anywhere in the world. We have had folk checking out our channel from all over the world.

3. Especially in times as these, Live Stream affords a sense of meeting the spiritual needs of your congregation without making them choose how daring they want to be in getting out of their places of safety or between the people they will be feel most comfortable with on a day in, day out basis.

4. You do not have to have a Facebook account to see the services.

5. You do not have to sign in, keep track of links or other security concerns with Zoom.

6. We originally made the choice of going with YouTube over Facebook Live because our Technology Ministry folk felt YouTube would probably outlast Facebook . . . but, who knows.

7. We will continue to develop our technology and continue with Live Streaming, but Live Streaming does not change the essential core of who we are. How we are the Church of Jesus Christ in these times has more to do with what we are called to do in mission and ministry, rather than how we get that Word out. Live Stream just opens the doors of our worship space a little wider.

8. Live Streaming is a ministry which can start small and grow, according to need and available resources.

9. We are developing another congregation, a virtual congregation, which worships, participates in the Sacraments, gives financially, and is an integral part of our faith family.

10. This ministry has, quite literally, caused us to ‘think outside the box’ of our worship home, to remember there are people watching even as we sit in our pews, and to act in a more global manner in all we are and do, liturgically and spiritually.
The St Paul UCC, Lebanon, YouTube channel is:

**stpauluccclebanonil**

Simply go to the Search Bar on the YouTube main page, Type this address in the Search, and you should arrive at our YouTube Channel, Which will allow you to select from our Live Streams and Uploads, beginning with the most recent.