

We've been at the plate about worship virtually. Below are our learnings from this past week.

What we learned yesterday is that FB gives a pretty one-way experience. It requires someone to monitor and respond to comments. This video that Chad shared about how to stream has gotten rave reviews by our pastors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhnR0hahkD0&t=2s> Several of our churches went from no streaming to their first streamed service in 2 days using this video.

Zoom offered a more "being together" experience and required platform management like group muting and watching the chat box. Chat allowed for prayer requests etc. 'Share screen' also offers the liturgy for people to follow along and respond responsively, etc.

We also learned that some smaller churches felt overwhelmed by trying to do anything online and we missed the opportunity for conversation about partnering with larger churches. We now recognize the need to make such partnerships equal and not have small church folk simply join large church streams. Sharing staff, recording sermons by both pastors etc, makes the prospect of collaboration more palatable.

Formats were varied. This one seemed to be particularly well done - after the camera was turned the proper direction (a comment heeded).

<https://www.facebook.com/RinconCongregationalUCC/videos/3116849918339534/>

We also set up a page for cancelations and streaming. <http://www.swcucc.org/worship-cancellations> People from across our conference tuned into other congregations to see how their covenant partners were doing things. One local pastor commented, "I've never felt so connected to the Southwest Conference in my life," after watching some of the recordings and streams from other congregations (our service start times span 2 time zones and a 2 hour window).

Those are some of our learnings. Our pastors asked for a follow-up this week so a second call is planned.

We are now using GroupMe for a parish pastors group and the follow-up from the calls is natural and frequent. We set it up for all of them and individuals could opt out if they wished.