

Rather than seeing cell phones as a nuisance, look at them as tools for telling the story. If we are serious about sharing the Good News in ways that people can hear and access, then not using cell phones (of which there are now more than there are people on the earth) should be considered ministerial malpractice.

There will, of course, always need to be spaces and places where we can disconnect and turn off our technology, we shouldn't ignore the power of the cell phone to reach current believers and the "nones" that everyone is talking about these days.

## Get your church to use their phones for evangelism

- 1 Establish a hashtag (search first to make sure it's unique to your congregation)\*
- 2 Encourage people to "like" and share posts from your church's FB page. It increases the number of people who will see it exponentially.
- 3 Ask someone to live tweet a church service
- 4 Encourage people to check in on FB to let people know that they are at church

## Instagram Photo challenges

Create a photo a day challenge for Lent or Advent and encourage people to take a photo of something that represents that word for them. Make sure they hashtag your church. You can use the images in worship or on your social media pages.

## Snapchat Stories

You can take photos on Snapchat and send them to "Your Story." The story saves photos that are taken in any 24-hour period and creates a slideshow that you can download. A great way to share images from a mission trip, youth event or any event in the life of the church.

## Prayer Apps

Devotion 365--daily devotions you can download on app or have emailed to you

Centering Prayer--customizable guided meditations/times of silence.

Daily Prayer--based on daily lectionary

Breathe--for the competitive meditator. Allows people to track their progress.

## Video Apps that Help you Tell the Story

Flipagram

This is a easy-to-use app that turns photos in to stop-action video. Great for story telling. See one our class did [HERE.](#)

Magisto

Makes great movies with special effects from photos as well as videos.

Great compilations, but cannot choose the order of the photos. [Here's an example.](#)

YouTube

Use YouTube videos to share new songs for worship. Many videos have words included. Post on FB or Website to give people a chance to learn songs ahead of time. You can also upload Flipagram and Magisto videos to your YouTube channel. Oh yeah, you should get a YouTube channel

Bible Apps

UVerse for Kids--interactive

Bible Gateway--can access numerous translations, including my new fav, the Easy to Read Version (ERV)

Biblical Pronunciation--an audio app that reads those impossible-to-read Bible words out loud for you. Great to pass on to liturgists

\*A Note on Hashtags

A hashtag is a way of filing posts you put on social media. You can use hashtags on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Then people can search a particular hashtag to find all posts related. But they are limited to the app that you are in. For example, if you search #2016ARW on Instagram, you will only find Instagram posts with that label. If you want to see what people on Facebook posted with that hashtag, you have to go to Facebook.

Hashtags are also used to make a point, get a laugh or to clarify. For example, "Can't wait for Trump to be president #sarcasm" lets you know that the poster is not being serious about whatever is posted before it. Or "Dinner was great #fullsatick" is much funnier than "I ate too much."