

Websites & The Small Church: Technical Stuff



This part is probably the most difficult part of starting out. My suggestion is to just keep it simple. While there are many ways that you can get your website on the internet, this would be the easiest. Weebly is one of the easiest ways that you can get a website put together. Weebly has set it up, so you can do it all on their website. If you feel really intimidated about starting your church website, I would recommend using Weebly for it all. What I mean by this, is use Weebly for website design (which is free) and to put your website on the internet (costs depends on how long you have it registered).

To get started, go to weebly.com and sign up on the left side of the screen. There are options to get free, starter, pro or business. To start out, you can use the free. The more you pay, the more you get. The free version will give you most of what you need. From there you can start working on a website without putting it on the internet. Look at the different designs and pick one. You can play around with a homepage a little (which I will get into next time). Try putting a picture on there with some basic information about your church – location, contact information, and worship times.

If you want to put the church website on the internet, go to the domain tab at the top of the page. The domain is the website address that people will type in to get to your website. You'll have three options there. The first option is to use a Weebly subdomain, which will have Weebly in the website address. This option would make your website completely free but makes the address pretty confusing for people to type into their browser. The second option is to register a domain with Weebly, which does cost some money. It looks a little more professional. The third option is to get a domain from somewhere else. This option will be a little cheaper than the second one but also a little more confusing to accomplish.

Deciding on the domain can be daunting. My recommendation is to choose something simple, like the name of your church. If you are a First (or Second or Third) Baptist Church, you'll have to add your town. For example, the church I serve has this for a website: www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org, which is a little long, but it describes who we are. Make sure to pick .org and not .com or any other option. If another church has already picked the domain you type in, Weebly will tell you. It's okay if your domain is a little long, because most people will find your website by searching it on Google or Yahoo first.

I promise that this is the most difficult part of starting a website. It does get easier from here! Next time we'll be exploring setting up a homepage and exploring SEO (Don't worry, if you don't know what that is!).

This column will feature a new “tech topic” each month by Kathleen Blackey. Please feel free to email Kathleen directly at ck.blackey@gmail.com

