

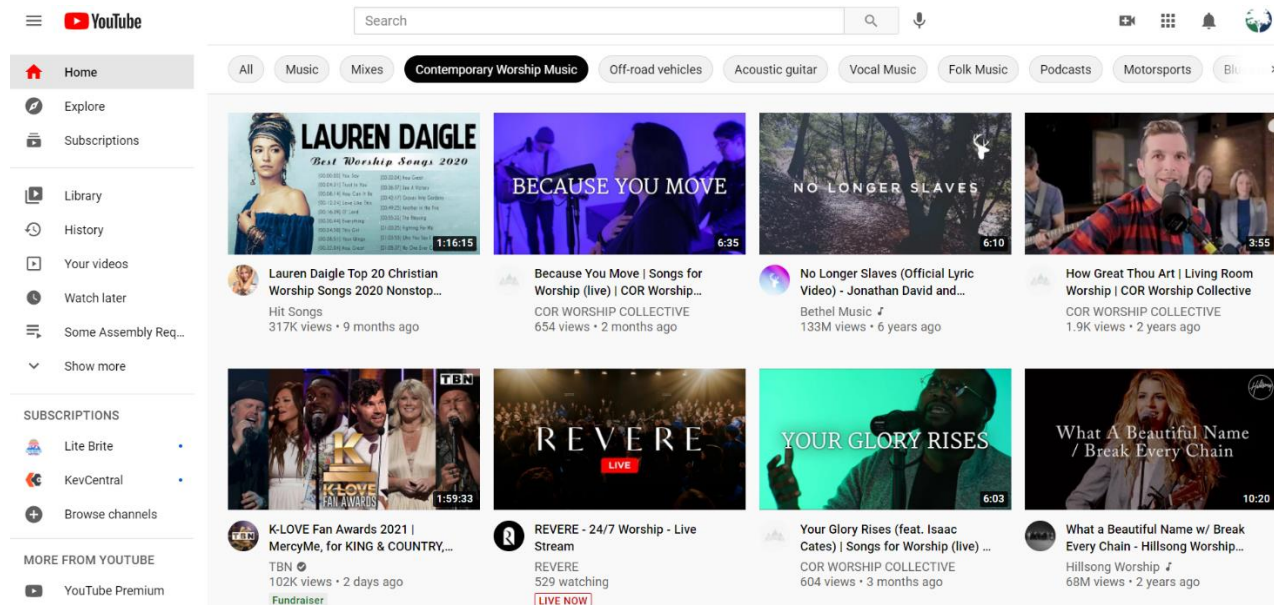
Hitchhiker's Guide to Livestreaming Worship – Youtube Live

While the answer to life is not “livestreaming”, it sure has felt like it over the past 15 months. Having worship be accessible online to both guests and members is an essential practice for Church leaders in 2021. So where do we start?

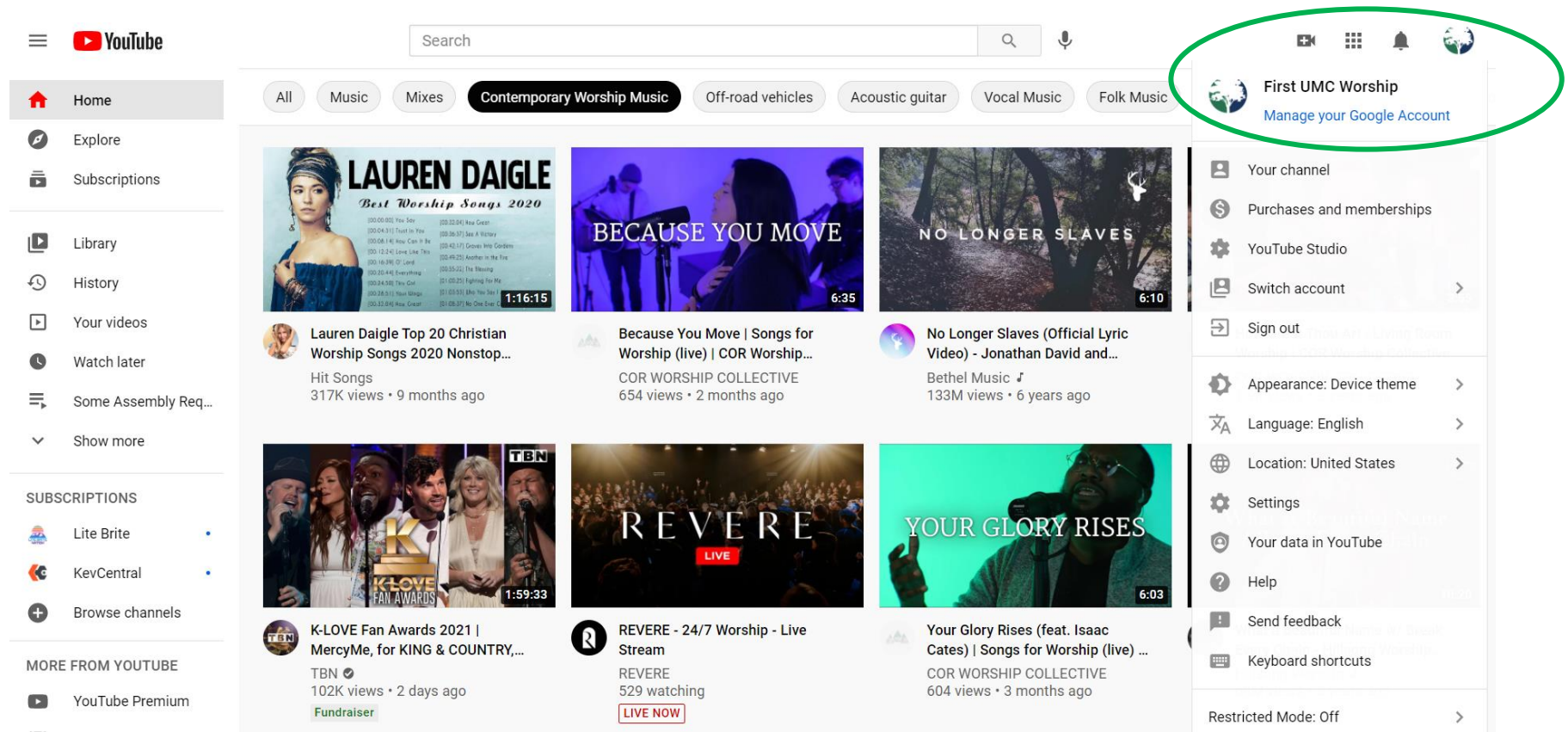
This guide gives some simple instructions for how to get started with livestreaming on one of two major social media platforms – *Youtube Live*. The screenshots below are views from a computer screen.

1) Create Google Account

To livestream on *Youtube Live*, you first need to create a *Google account*. **You may already have your own personal Google account, but it is recommended to create one specifically to host your Church's videos.**



Once you are logged in, you will notice that you can click either a generic letter or a logo in the top right corner.



This menu allows access to settings, and specifically your account's "Channel" and "Youtube Studio." The Channel is what you will be asking your church members to "subscribe" to, and the Studio is where you can track insights on how your videos are received.

2) Create Channel

Your Youtube Account will have a default Channel. You can customize this channel with your Church logo, some basic information and link to other Social Media applications and website by clicking *“Customize Channel.”*

The screenshot shows the YouTube interface. On the left is the navigation menu with options like Home, Explore, Subscriptions, Library, History, Your videos, Watch later, and Some Assembly Required. The main content area displays the channel header for 'First UMC Worship' with 38 subscribers. The channel banner features the church's logo and name. Below the banner are two buttons: 'CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL' (highlighted with a green circle) and 'MANAGE VIDEOS'. Underneath these buttons are tabs for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. The 'Uploads' section shows a list of five videos with their titles, thumbnails, and view counts.

Video Title	Thumbnail Description	Duration	Views	Time Ago
The Product - What is God creating new in you today?	Some Assembly Required: Building a Life With God	42:09	6 views	22 hours ago
The Pieces - Valuing God's Community	Some Assembly Required: Building a Life With God	46:50	8 views	1 week ago
Have I Done Enough?	Some Assembly Required: Building a Life With God	45:11	10 views	1 week ago
The Directions - Following God's Work	Some Assembly Required: Building a Life With God	44:50	14 views	2 weeks ago
The Picture - Seeing God's Work	Some Assembly Required: Building a Life With God	43:19	14 views	3 weeks ago

Quick Tip

When your channel has 100 subscribers, you can customize the web address (url) of the page to be easier to share.

3) Go Live

Youtube offers some advantages over Facebook Live, as it is generally more accessible on Smart TVs at home. One complication is that to livestream on Youtube, you must use a computer with a connected camera unless your channel has 1,000+ followers. This is in line with a recent update to Youtube's [policy](#).

To livestream from a computer, you'll begin by clicking the camera button to the left of the logo on the top right of the screen.

The screenshot shows the YouTube interface for the 'First UMC Worship' channel. On the left is the YouTube sidebar with navigation links: Home, Explore, Subscriptions, Library, History, Your videos, Watch later, and Some Assembly Required. The main header features the channel logo, name, and subscriber count (38 subscribers). Below the header are tabs for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. The 'Uploads' section is active, displaying a list of five videos. A green circle highlights the camera, grid, and notification icons in the top right corner of the YouTube interface.

Channel Information:

- Channel Name: First UMC Worship
- Subscribers: 38 subscribers

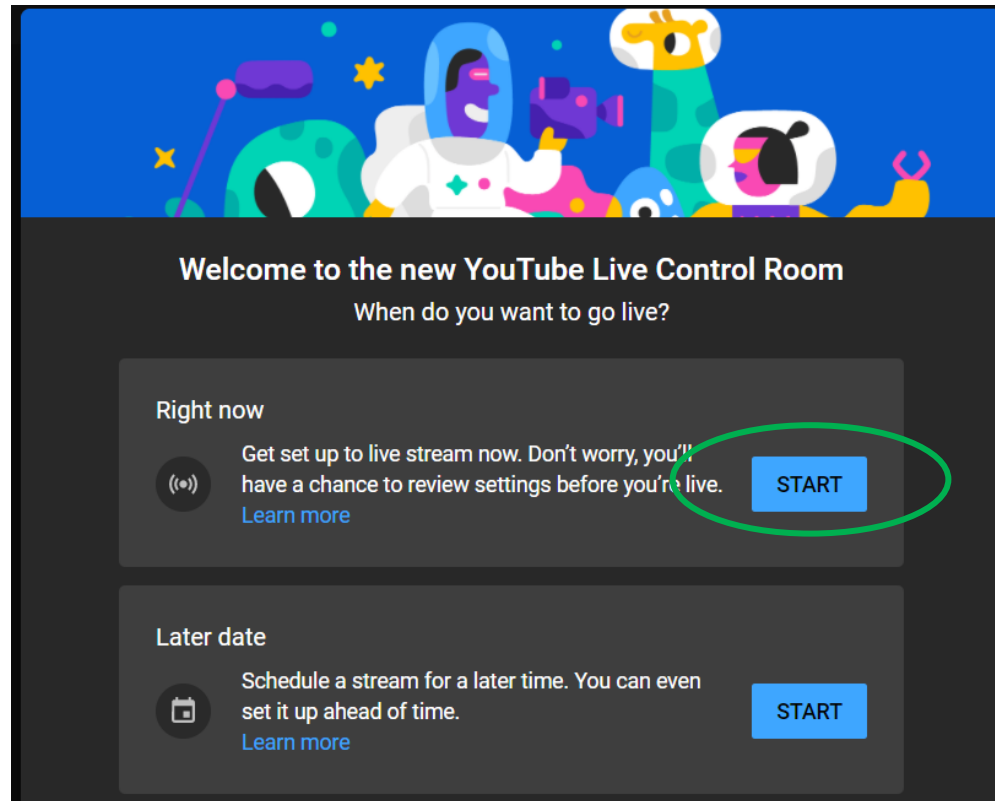
Navigation Tabs:

- HOME
- VIDEOS
- PLAYLISTS
- CHANNELS
- DISCUSSION
- ABOUT

Uploads Section:

Video Title	Duration	Views	Time Ago
The Product - What is God creating new in you today?	42:09	6 views	22 hours ago
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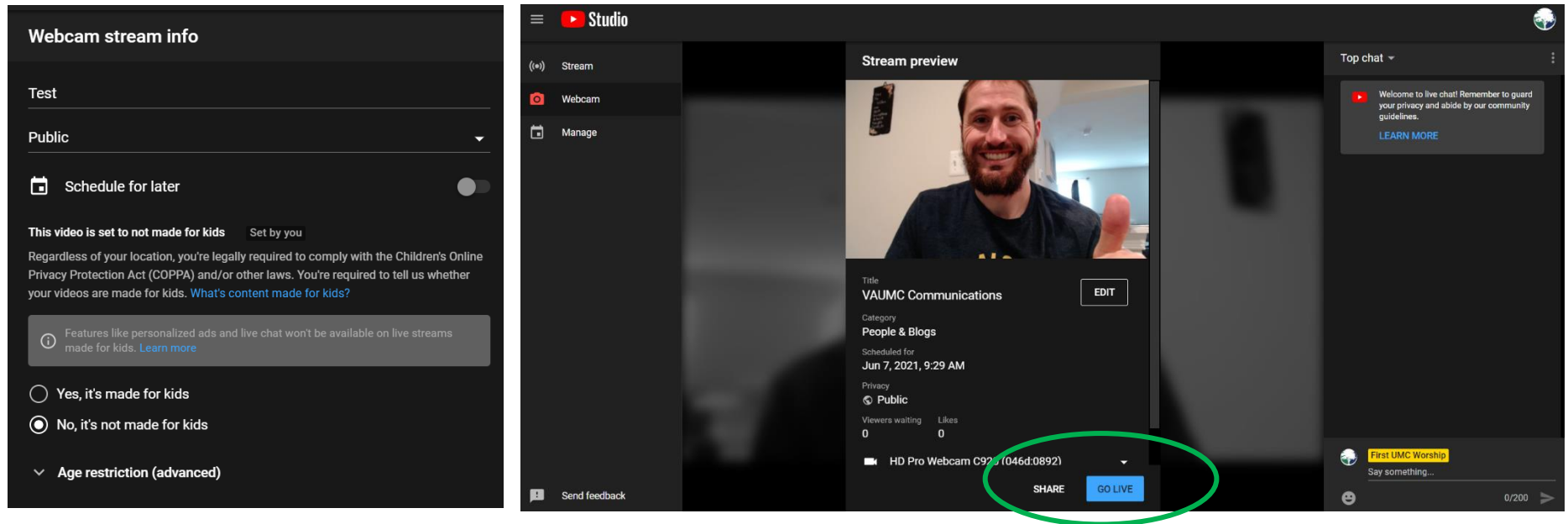
This button will take you into Youtube's *Live Control Room*. The simplest option in this space is to start the livestream "right now."



Quick Tip

Setting up a stream for a later date does allow for subscribers to see what is coming ahead of time. Youtube has several options that are aimed at helping to share information with subscribers, this guide does not detail all of those options as it is intended for beginner use.

You will then be able to enter in your Video Title and other information. **A good rule of thumb for answering the question about whether the video is made for kids is determining if they are the primary audience of the livestream. It does not mean kids are unwelcome to say the video is “not made for kids”.**



After entering in the video information, you can select your camera that is connected to the computer and be ready to livestream by clicking the blue “Go Live” button on the bottom right.