

Starting A DRIVE-IN CHURCH *Information Packet*

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Our DRIVE-IN CHURCH Story

University Parkway Church started our DRIVE-IN CHURCH in May of 2015 after visiting the DRIVE-IN CHURCH of Daytona Beach, FL. After experiencing the worship from our car, as guests to Daytona Beach, we were taken by surprise at how personal and impactful the worship service was. On the drive back to Tennessee we discussed for hours the possibilities that a DRIVE-IN CHURCH service could have on the needs of people in our community. We discussed the possibilities with our church and asked our people to pray about it. Our church decided to give it a try. We had our skeptics, but for the most part our church was in favor of it.

For the first DRIVE-IN CHURCH service we asked our own church people to attend our 9:30 AM DRIVE-IN CHURCH. We thought it would be very important for our own congregation to experience it for themselves. The second week, we asked our church members to invite their friends. We had over 30 new people visit our church for the very first time! As people began to drive up in their cars, they were greeted by our new greeters. This was the first ministry that our new greeters had engaged in. Church bulletins were given out. We also handed out a song sheet containing the words to our song set for that day. There was a lot of fellowship between our greeters and our guests.

The guests were then directed to a parking space and given information to turn their FM radio onto our low power FM radio station signal that we are broadcasting from our soundboard. We have provided a tear-off on our bulletin, so they can register and give us their prayer requests. Guests can also check a box to let us know if they have put their trust in Jesus Christ, or if they would like more information about our church, or if they would like to speak with the pastor. Many of these people were not followers of Jesus Christ.

In the years since we began, God has used the DRIVE-IN CHURCH to bring many people into His Kingdom! We've seen many of these people join our church. Attenders often ask us when joining, "Will we have to come inside when we join?" We tell them "No, you are a member of our DRIVE-IN CHURCH congregation." Many of our DRIVE-IN CHURCH congregation members are involved in many of our ministries that we offer to the community. Right now, we average between 80 and 120 people in our DRIVE-IN CHURCH. We have found out that people can worship God anywhere. But being inside their car, they can control their sound, their environmental temperature, they feel safe and secure, and have less distractions than our inside worship service with lights, and people moving around and talking. We have witnessed a great environment for God to quiet people's hearts so they can hear the message.

Our DRIVE-IN CHURCH continues to reach people with the gospel message, as well as bring biblical teaching for growth and spiritual development for followers of Jesus Christ. You might want to consider offering a DRIVE-IN CHURCH in your community.

Here is a brief list of some of the people that might attend a DRIVE-IN CHURCH worship service;

Those who struggle with anxiety, people having surgery, people with children who deal with autism, people who do shift work, people who are on call and need to answer their phone, college students, heart patients, people in wheelchairs, families on vacation, People with MS, people with PTSD, people searching for God, people who have to wear work clothes, people who are hearing impaired, children with behavioral challenges, chemotherapy patients, people with pets can bring their pets to the DRIVE-IN CHURCH, people who have lost a loved one, people struggling with depression, people who have been imprisoned, people struggling with their weight, people who are blind, people that are on walkers, people on oxygen, Hospice patients, firemen, police officers, people with impaired speech, people with A.D.D and brain injury patients. These are just a few of a very long list of people that may come to your DRIVE-IN CHURCH.

Technical information for the DRIVE-IN CHURCH

We ordered a small, low power, FM transmitter kit and antenna. This type of transmitter is used for schools, churches, farmers, etc. In our area we are not required to have an FCC license to operate. The range of this type of transmitter is less than 1/2 a mile.

Broadcasting your service can be very simple. The first thing you need to determine is where your DRIVE-IN CHURCH will be located. This will determine your antenna location as well as your sound setup. If your pastor will be outside, will you be able to run a microphone cable to the pastor or do you have a strong enough wireless microphone? What type of music will you be using... live music, recorded music, or no music at all. Simply take an output signal from your sound board and insert to the line-in on the transmitter. You will need to monitor the mixed sound and the level of the signal, also called modulation.

Because we were able to use the sound equipment that our church already had, the cost was very minimal. We spent less than \$500 to start this ministry. You will probably need an external antenna to boost your signal reach. We purchased a Ramsey FM 30 transmitter at a cost of \$189. These are the same transmitters used by many drive-in movie theaters.

This is what some people are saying about the DRIVE-IN CHURCH:

“At the DRIVE-IN CHURCH we enjoy the beauty of the outdoor environment at this beautiful, peaceful church. The wonderful music and message each Sunday are truly enriching our hearts and we are so grateful that you offer the DRIVE-IN CHURCH, so we can worship in such a way that is so meaningful for so many people. Thanks to all of you and God bless!” ~Kathy

“Worshipping at the DRIVE-IN CHURCH brings hope and joy into my life. I always enjoy the music and the message.” ~Phyllis

“The DRIVE-IN CHURCH allows my father, who is seriously ill to attend church. He doesn't have the energy to go inside, so the DRIVE-IN CHURCH is wonderful for him. It's a true blessing to have this option for him to receive the Word of God.” ~Amy

“Attending the DRIVE-IN CHURCH is convenient, non-judgmental, and more personal. There are no worries about what others think.” ~Natalie

“At the DRIVE-IN CHURCH we were greeted by such joyful people. I appreciate the one-on-one time with God. I enjoy the quietness that I experience.” ~Anonymous

Contact information

If you have any questions, please call Scott Thompson at University Parkway Baptist Church in Johnson City, TN. You may reach him at 423.426.1594. You can find us on Facebook or at upbaptist.org.



**DRIVE-IN
CHURCH**
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91.3 FM

