

# Do You Need a Church App? A Decision Guide

A free checklist from ChurchCreation.com

## TICK MOST OF THESE BEFORE BUILDING AN APP

- Mobile-friendly website already live (times, location, plan-your-visit)
- A sizable, regularly-attending congregation (~300–500+ engaged adults)
- At least one feature an app does materially better (push, recurring giving, check-in)
- Staff/volunteer capacity to update app content weekly – forever
- Budget that covers app + website + maintenance (not app instead of website)
- Evidence of demand (survey, rising digital giving, regulars who'd install it)
- A realistic plan to get 30–50%+ of attenders to download & keep it

**Can't tick most?** A mobile-friendly website + the free Church Center app covers what most churches think they need an app for.

## ORDER BY CHURCH SIZE

- Under 100 — Website only
- 100–500 — Website first, then the free app
- 500–1,000 — Website + free app; consider branded
- 1,000+ — Website + branded app

## APP OPTIONS & COST

TOOL	BEST FOR	COST
<b>Church Center (Planning Center)</b>	The free app most churches need	Free*
<b>Tithe.ly Church App</b>	Cheap branded entry point	~\$89/mo
<b>Subsplash</b>	Big custom-branded platform	\$149–\$600+/mo
<b>Pushpay</b>	Enterprise giving + app	\$500–\$1,000+/mo
<b>PWA / "add to home screen"</b>	App-like icon, no store, no download	~\$0
<b>Custom native app</b>	Bespoke build	\$50k–\$270k +/mo upkeep

\*Free with a Planning Center subscription. Check it before paying any app vendor.