BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Making a Photo Slideshow

Anniversaries, graduations and memorials —
gathering photos, adding music and showing it on a TV

A plain-English guide to making a slideshow your family will treasure

Take your time — your original photos are never changed

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

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For iPhone, Android, Windows 11 & Mac · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to making a photo slideshow for an anniversary, a graduation, a reunion or a memorial. Read it in any order and at your own pace. If your event is soon, start with Chapter 3 to pick the easiest way for your device, and keep the night-before checklist in Chapter 25 handy. If a screen looks a little different on yours, the idea is still the same.

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PART 1

Getting Started

What a photo slideshow really is, the handful of words you'll hear, and how to pick the easiest way to make one with the phone or computer you already own.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Sooner or later almost every family needs a photo slideshow. It might be for a 50th anniversary party, a graduation open house, a big birthday or a family reunion. And sometimes it's for the hardest day of all: a funeral, a memorial service or a celebration of life. Very often it's needed **in a hurry**, with only a few days' notice, and the job lands on whoever in the family is "good with computers." If that's you, take a breath. You can do this.

I'm Bill. For more than 30 years I've helped people feel at home with their technology, and I've written this book the way I'd explain it sitting beside you at the kitchen table: slowly, in plain English, one step at a time. You don't need to buy special software. The phone or computer you already own can make a lovely slideshow, set it to music and get it onto a big TV.

What this book covers

- **Planning**: how many photos you need for how many minutes, and what order to put them in.
- **Gathering photos** from brothers, sisters, cousins and old shoeboxes.
- **Making the slideshow** on an iPhone, an Android phone, a Windows computer, a Mac, or with a free website such as Canva or Adobe Express.
- **Music**: using songs safely, and why YouTube or Facebook may silence a popular song.
- **Saving it as a video file** so it plays anywhere.
- **Showing it on a TV**, at home, at a church, or at a funeral home or banquet hall.
- **Sharing it** with family who couldn't be there.
- **Staying safe** from fake "free slideshow maker" downloads.
- A **"night before" checklist**, so the big day goes smoothly.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this book does for you

By the end you'll have a finished slideshow saved as a video, a backup copy in your pocket, and a plan for getting it onto the screen without a last-minute scramble. Most of all, you'll be able to spend the day itself with your family instead of fiddling with cables.

The big promise: you can't break anything

Making a slideshow never changes or deletes your original photos. The apps in this book make a *copy* of the pictures you choose and arrange that copy. If a slideshow turns out wrong, you simply start another. The only things that need a moment's thought are **downloading programs** (Chapter 24 shows you how to stay safe) and **leaving enough time** to test it on the real TV. I'll point those out as we go.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **Written for November 2026**
>
> This book is written for today's devices: iPhones with iOS 26 and iOS 27, Android phones with Google Photos, Windows 11 computers and Macs. Apps change their buttons from time to time. If your screen looks a little different, the idea is almost always the same.

And you're never stuck alone. If the day is getting close and you'd like a hand, call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together. There's no such thing as a silly question when it's your family's memories on the screen.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Slideshow Is, in Plain English

A photo slideshow is simply a series of pictures that appear one after another, usually with gentle movement between them and music playing underneath. There are really **two kinds**, and knowing the difference saves a lot of trouble.

Kind	What it means for you
A live slideshow	Plays right inside the Photos app on your phone or computer. It's quick and easy, but it only exists while that device is playing it. Lovely for the living room.
A slideshow video	The same pictures and music saved as **one video file**. You can copy it to a USB stick, email a link to it, play it on almost any TV, and keep it forever. This is what a funeral home or venue will usually want.

FROM BILL

My honest advice

If the slideshow is for an event outside your home, aim to finish with a **video file**. A live slideshow depends on your phone, its battery and its Wi-Fi all behaving on the day. A video file can be copied, backed up and played on someone else's equipment.

Words worth knowing

Word	What it means
Video file	A single file that holds your whole slideshow, pictures and music together.
MP4	The most common kind of video file. Almost every TV, computer and phone can play one. When an app asks what format to save in, MP4 is usually the safe choice.
1080p ("Full HD")	A common picture sharpness for video. It looks good on a big TV and keeps the file a manageable size. 720p is smaller and a little softer; 4K is sharper and much bigger.
Transition	The effect between two pictures, such as a slow fade.
Ken Burns effect	A slow zoom or pan across a still photo, so it gently moves. Many apps add it for you.
Royalty-free music	Music you're allowed to use in your own videos without paying the songwriter each time. Most slideshow apps include some.
AirPlay	Apple's way of sending what's on your iPhone, iPad or Mac to a TV over Wi-Fi.

Word	What it means
Google Cast	Google's way of sending video or photos from a phone or the Chrome browser to a TV over Wi-Fi. You may know it as Chromecast.
HDMI	The flat cable that connects a TV to a computer, cable box or streaming stick.
USB stick	A small memory stick (also called a flash drive or thumb drive) for carrying files.

CHAPTER 3

Which Way Is Right for You

There's no single "best" slideshow app. The best one is the one on the device you already know. Find your situation below, then jump to that chapter.

If you have…	The easiest way	Gives you a video file?	Chapter
An iPhone, and want it on the TV tonight	Photos app slideshow	No, it plays live	7
An iPhone, and want a movie to keep	Memory movie, or iMovie	Yes	8, 9
An Android phone	Google Photos highlight video	Yes	12
A Windows computer	Clipchamp (comes with Windows 11)	Yes, MP4	13, 14
A Mac	Photos slideshow project, or iMovie	Yes	10, 11
Any computer with a web browser	Canva or Adobe Express	Yes, MP4	15

TIP

Use the device where the photos already are

If most of the pictures are on your phone, make it on the phone. If they're on a computer, or you're gathering scans and emailed photos from many people, a computer with a bigger screen is usually easier. Moving hundreds of pictures between devices is the slow part, so avoid it when you can.

How much time to allow

Step	Rough guide
Gathering photos	Often the longest step. Ask family early, and give a firm deadline.
Choosing and ordering	Plan on an evening for a few hundred pictures.
Making the slideshow	An hour or two, once the photos are in one place.
Saving the video and testing it on the real TV	Leave at least a day. This is the step people skip, and the one that causes problems on the day.

HEADS UP

Don't save the test for the morning of

A video that plays perfectly on your laptop can refuse to play on an unfamiliar TV. Test it on the actual screen, or at least send it to the venue a day or two early, so there's time to fix it.

PART 2

Planning and Gathering Photos

A little planning makes everything else easier: how long the slideshow should be, how many pictures that takes, what order tells the story, and how to collect photos from the whole family.

CHAPTER 4

Planning: How Many Photos for How Many Minutes

The first question is simple: **how long should it be?** A slideshow that plays quietly in the background during a visitation or a party can run longer. One that everyone sits and watches together should be shorter. Ask whoever is organizing the event, and if nobody knows, aim for the length of two or three songs.

The simple math

Most people find that each picture should stay on screen for about **5 to 7 seconds**: long enough to recognize faces, short enough to keep things moving. At 5 seconds each, you need **12 photos for every minute**. At 6 seconds, it's 10 a minute. Here's a quick guide at 5 to 6 seconds a picture:

Slideshow length	Roughly how many photos
3 to 4 minutes (about one song)	35 to 50 photos
8 to 10 minutes (about three songs)	80 to 120 photos
15 minutes	150 to 180 photos
30 minutes (a looping background show)	300 to 360 photos

TIP

Fewer, better pictures

It's tempting to include every photo anyone sends. Resist it. A shorter show of the best pictures is more moving than a long one where people start checking their watches. A good rule: one great photo beats three nearly identical ones.

Choosing an order

There are three orders that work well. Pick one and stick with it:

Order	When it works best
By time (oldest first)	The most natural for a memorial, a milestone birthday or an anniversary. Baby pictures, school years, wedding, children, grandchildren, recent years.

Order	When it works best
By theme	Good for a party: "Family vacations," "Holidays," "With the grandkids," "Friends."
By person	Good for a graduation or a reunion: a section for each family branch or each friend group.

A simple timeline to sketch first

Before you open any app, jot a quick outline on paper or in a note. For a life story, it might be:

1. **Opening**: one well-loved recent photo, perhaps with a name and dates (Chapter 23 has ideas).
2. **Early years**: childhood, school, family of origin.
3. **Young adult**: military service, college, first jobs, courtship, wedding.
4. **Family years**: children, homes, holidays, vacations.
5. **Later years**: grandchildren, hobbies, friends, travels.
6. **Closing**: a favorite photo held on screen a little longer, so the show ends gently.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **Start with the music length**
>
> If you already know which songs you'll use, add up their lengths first. Three songs of about three and a half minutes each make a show of roughly ten minutes, which tells you to aim for 100 to 120 photos. Several apps can also stretch or shrink the timing to fit the music for you.

CHAPTER 5

Gathering Photos from the Whole Family

The best pictures are usually scattered: on a sister's phone, in a cousin's Facebook albums, in a shoebox in the closet. Here's how to bring them together without losing your mind.

Send one clear message

Text or email the family once, with everything they need to know. For example:

"We're making a slideshow for Mom and Dad's 50th. Please send your favorite photos by Thursday evening. Send the original pictures, not screenshots, and tell us roughly when and where each was taken if you know. Here's the link to add them."

- **Give a firm deadline** a couple of days before you really need them.
- **Ask for originals**, not screenshots or photos of a screen. Originals are sharper on a big TV.
- **Name one person** who's collecting everything, so photos don't go to three different people.

Easy ways for family to send pictures

Way	Good for
A shared album	The tidiest choice. You make one album and send a link; everyone adds their pictures to it. Apple's Photos app and Google Photos both offer this, and both can include family members on other kinds of phones.
A Google Photos link	Someone with Google Photos can select pictures and send you a link instead of the photos themselves. You open the link and save the ones you want.
Text messages	Fine for a few photos. For dozens, a shared album is far easier on everyone.
Email	Works, but many email services shrink or limit large attachments. Better for a handful of pictures than for a whole album.

GOOD TO KNOW

Shared albums have their own guide

Setting up a family shared album is simple, and my Shared Albums for Families manual walks through it step by step on iPhone, Android and computers. My Apple Photos and Google Photos manuals cover their shared albums too. One tip: after the event, keep the shared album. It becomes a lovely keepsake for everyone who contributed.

Old prints, slides and home movies

Many of the most treasured pictures were taken long before phones. You have three choices:

- **Photograph the print with your phone.** Lay it flat near a window (no flash), hold the phone straight above it, and fill the screen. Quick, and good enough for many slideshows.
- **Use a scanner**, or a scanning app on your phone that removes glare and straightens the edges.
- **Use a scanning service** for large boxes of prints, slides or film. Allow time: these often take weeks, so they suit a later keepsake better than a slideshow due this weekend.

My Digitizing Old Photos & Movies manual covers all three in detail, including how to handle slides and old videotapes.

HEADS UP

Handle originals gently

Old prints are irreplaceable. Don't send the only copy of a photo through the mail, and don't let originals leave the family without a record of who has them. Scan or photograph first, then share the copies.

CHAPTER 6

Choosing and Preparing Your Pictures

Once the photos are in one place, it's time to choose. This is the step that turns a pile of pictures into a story. It's also the step where a second pair of eyes helps most, so invite a family member to sit with you.

Put everything in one album first

Whatever app you'll use, start by making one album (or, on a computer, one folder) and putting every chosen picture in it. Call it something clear, like "Dad slideshow" or "Graduation 2026." Every app in this book can start a slideshow from an album, and it keeps you from hunting through thousands of other photos.

> TIP
>
> **On a computer, numbers keep your order**
>
> If you're using a folder on a computer, you can rename the files with numbers at the front, such as 001, 002, 003. Many apps will then keep them in that order. Leave gaps (010, 020, 030) so you can slip a late photo in between.

What makes a good slideshow photo

Look for	Why it matters
Faces you can see	Choose pictures where people are recognizable. A beautiful landscape is fine now and then, but faces are what people come to see.
Tall and wide photos	Most TVs are wide. Tall ("portrait") phone photos will show with bars on each side or be zoomed and cropped by the app. A mix is fine; just check that heads aren't cut off.
Blurry or tiny	A small or blurry picture looks worse on a big TV. Use it only if it's the only photo of an important moment.
Group photos	Lovely, but keep them on screen a little longer so people can find themselves.

Quick fixes before you start

- **Rotate** any photo that's on its side, and **crop** away a distracting edge. My Apple Photos and Google Photos manuals show how, and every edit can be undone.
- **Brighten** very dark pictures a little.
- **Remove near-duplicates.** If there are five of the same moment, keep the best one.

HEADS UP

Be thoughtful about who appears

For a memorial or a public event, think about photos that include ex-spouses, people who've had a falling out, or anyone who might be upset to see themselves. When in doubt, ask a close family member. It's much easier to leave a picture out than to explain it afterward.

PART 3

Making It on an iPhone or a Mac

Apple gives you three good tools: a quick slideshow in the Photos app, memory movies that make themselves, and iMovie for a polished video. On a Mac, the Photos app can build and save a full slideshow project.

CHAPTER 7

A Quick Slideshow in the iPhone Photos App

The fastest way to show pictures on an iPhone is the Photos app's own **slideshow**. It takes seconds, adds music and transitions for you, and can play on a TV with AirPlay. It's perfect for the living room or a small gathering. Remember, though, that it plays *live* from the phone; it doesn't create a video file (Chapters 8 and 9 do).

Play an album as a slideshow

1. Open **Photos** and tap **Collections**.
2. Open the album you made for the event.
3. Tap the **More** button (three dots), then tap **Start Slideshow**.

Or hand-pick the photos

1. In the Photos **Library**, tap **Select**.
2. Tap each photo or video you want to include.
3. Tap the **More** button, then tap **Start Slideshow**.

Slow it down, change the song, make it loop

While the slideshow plays, tap the screen to show the controls, then tap **Customize**:

Tap	What it does
Transition & Duration	Choose the style of change between pictures, the speed, and how long each picture stays up. A slower setting is kinder to older eyes.
Music > Choose Song	Pick a different song for the background.
Loop	Plays the slideshow over and over, which is ideal for a party or visitation.

TIP

Put it on the TV

With an Apple TV or an AirPlay-compatible smart TV on the same Wi-Fi, you can send the slideshow to the big screen. Chapter 19 walks through AirPlay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Older iPhones

iOS 27 lets you start a slideshow from any album. On older versions of iOS the steps and buttons may be a little different, but the idea is the same: select the pictures, then look for **Slideshow** under the More or Share button. My Apple Photos manual explains how to check your version.

CHAPTER 8

Memory Movies on iPhone

Your iPhone quietly makes short movies called **Memories** from your pictures, complete with music and titles. You can also turn any album into a memory movie. Unlike the quick slideshow, a memory movie can be **shared as a video**.

Watch a memory

1. Open **Photos** and tap **Collections**.
2. Scroll to **Memories** and tap one to play it.
3. Any album or collection can also be played as a memory movie. Open it and look for the **Play** button.

Describe the movie you want (Apple Intelligence)

On iPhones with Apple Intelligence, you can type a description, such as *"Grandpa at the lake through the years"*, and Photos picks the pictures, arranges them into a story with chapters and adds music.

1. Open **Photos**, tap **Collections**, then tap **Memories**.
2. Tap **Create**.
3. Describe the memory movie you want, then tap **Done**.

> GOOD TO KNOW
>
> **Which iPhones can do this**
>
> Creating a memory from a description needs an iPhone with Apple Intelligence: an iPhone 15 Pro, iPhone 15 Pro Max, or any iPhone 16 or later. It isn't offered in every language or region. Every iPhone can still play the memories Photos makes on its own, and any album as a memory movie.

Send the movie to someone

1. Play the memory.
2. Tap the screen, then tap the **More** button.
3. Tap **Share Movie**, then choose how to send it, such as **AirDrop**, **Messages** or **Mail**.

HEADS UP

Check every picture the computer chose

Memories are made automatically. Before showing one at an event, watch it all the way through. A computer can't know that one picture is from a hard time, or that a person in another shouldn't be there. For a memorial, I'd rather you choose the pictures yourself (Chapter 9).

TIP

Getting the movie to a computer

If you'll need the video on a USB stick, AirDrop it to a Mac, or share it to yourself and save it on the computer. My Apple Photos manual covers copying photos and videos to a computer.

CHAPTER 9

iMovie on iPhone: A Video You Control

iMovie is Apple's own video app. It's free from the App Store and gives you full control over which photos appear, in what order, and with what music. When you're done, it saves a proper video into your Photos library.

Three kinds of iMovie project

Project	What it is
Magic Movie	You choose the photos and clips; iMovie adds the soundtrack and transitions for you. The easiest start.
Storyboard	A ready-made template with titles, transitions and music, where you fill in the pictures.
Movie	A blank project where you arrange everything yourself. More work, more control.

For most slideshows, a **Magic Movie** is the right choice. Open iMovie, start a new project, choose Magic Movie, select the photos from your event album, and let iMovie build a first draft. Then you can drag pictures into a new order and remove any you don't want.

Choose the music

In a Magic Movie or storyboard, tap a clip, then tap **Music**. You can pick one of iMovie's **included soundtracks**, a song from your Music library, or an audio file saved on your iPhone. Tap **Add Music**, then **Done**. To change the overall look, music and title fonts at once, tap the **Styles** button at the top of the project.

HEADS UP

Apple's own note about songs

Apple's iMovie guide reminds you that songs bought from the iTunes Store may be used in a movie only if you hold the copyright or have permission. iMovie's included soundtracks are the worry-free choice, especially if the video will go online. Chapter 16 explains more.

Save it as a video

1. In the **Projects** browser, tap your project.
2. Tap the **Share** button at the bottom of the screen, then tap **Share Video**.
3. If you like, tap **Options** and choose the resolution (1080p is a good choice for a TV).

4. Tap **Back** or **Done**, then tap **Save Video** to put it in your Photos library, or **Save to Files** to keep it in iCloud Drive or on the iPhone.

TIP

With iCloud Photos on

If iCloud Photos is turned on, the saved video also appears on your other Apple devices signed in with the same Apple Account, including a Mac. That makes it easy to copy to a USB stick from the computer.

CHAPTER 10

A Slideshow Project in Photos on a Mac

The Photos app on a Mac can make two kinds of slideshow: a **quick slideshow** that just plays, and a saved **slideshow project** where you choose a theme, music and timing, add text, and then save the whole thing as a video. For an event, use a project.

Make a slideshow project

1. Open **Photos** and select the pictures you want (or open your event album and select them all with Command-A).
2. From the menu bar, choose **File** > **Create** > **Slideshow** > **Photos**.
3. Choose to make a new slideshow, give it a name, and click **OK**.
4. Drag the thumbnails along the bottom to change the order.

Theme, music, timing and text

Button	What it does
Theme	Click the **Themes** button and pick a look. The theme sets the text style, position and transitions.
Music	Click the **Music** button and choose from your Music library or the built-in **Theme Songs**. Drag songs to reorder them.
Duration	Choose **Fit to Music** to make the slideshow exactly as long as your songs, or **Custom** to set the length with a slider.
Text	Select a photo in the project, click the **Add** button and choose **Add Text**, then type. (Newer versions may call the button Add Object.)

GOOD TO KNOW

Where it's kept

Saved slideshows appear under **Projects** in the Photos sidebar. If you use an iCloud Shared Photo Library, set the Library pop-up to **Both Libraries** to see them.

Save it as a video file

1. In the sidebar, under **Projects**, select your slideshow.
2. Click **Export** in the toolbar, or choose **File** > **Export** > **Export Slideshow**.
3. Choose the size. Apple suggests **720p or 1080p** for HD TVs (480p is only for old standard-definition sets).

4. Choose where to save it, such as the Desktop or a USB stick, and click **Save**.

CHAPTER 11

iMovie on a Mac

If you want more control than a Photos slideshow gives you, such as titles over particular pictures, a short video clip in the middle, or music that starts and stops exactly where you want, **iMovie for Mac** is free from the Mac App Store and does all of that. It takes a little longer to learn, so give yourself an extra evening.

The basic idea

- Create a new **Movie** project and import or drag in the photos from your event album.
- Drag them onto the timeline in order. iMovie gives each photo a gentle Ken Burns movement, which you can adjust.
- Add music from iMovie's sound effects and soundtracks, or from your Music library.
- Add titles where you want words on screen.

Save it as a video file

1. Select your movie in the iMovie browser.
2. Choose **File** > **Share** > **File**.
3. Set the title, resolution and quality. A higher resolution makes a bigger file that looks best on a large TV; a lower one makes a smaller file that uploads faster.
4. Click **Next**, choose where to save it, and click **Save**. When it's finished, the movie opens in QuickTime Player so you can check it.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **Which Mac tool should you use?**
>
> For most families, the Photos slideshow project is plenty, and it's quicker. Reach for iMovie only if you need things Photos can't do, such as mixing in video clips with their own sound, or adding a recorded voice.

PART 4

Making It on Android, Windows or the Web

Google Photos highlight videos on Android (and iPhone), Clipchamp on Windows, and two free websites, Canva and Adobe Express, that work on any computer.

CHAPTER 12

Google Photos: Making a Highlight Video

On Android phones, and on iPhones and computers that use Google Photos, the slideshow tool is called a **highlight video**: your photos and clips set to music, saved as a real video in your Google Photos library. You can start from a ready-made **template** (with music, text and timing that follows the beat already built in) or choose everything yourself.

On an Android phone or iPhone

1. Open the **Google Photos** app and tap **Create**.
2. Tap **Highlight video**.
3. Pick a template, or choose to select your own photos and videos.
4. Tap the pictures you want, then tap **Next** at the top right.
5. Review the video. You can change the clips, the music and the text.
6. Tap **Save**.

On a computer

1. Go to **photos.google.com** and sign in.
2. Click **Create**, then **Highlight video**, then **Create your own video**.
3. Click to select the photos you want.
4. Click **Create**. Change the music, reorder clips or remove any you don't want.
5. Click **Save**.

Fixing it afterward

Open the saved video and tap **Edit**. You can add text, add or remove clips, and drag clips into a different order, then tap **Save**. To find your highlight videos later, type **Highlight videos** in the Google Photos search bar.

HEADS UP

Google's music is for personal use

Google says the music that comes with Google Photos is for personal, non-commercial use. A family event, a memorial or sharing with relatives is exactly that. Google also notes that some older devices can't make highlight videos; if yours can't, try photos.google.com on a computer.

GOOD TO KNOW

What else is in the Create tab

You'll also see **collages**, **animations** (a quick, looping GIF that can't be slowed down) and **cinematic photos**. Newer AI tools that turn a photo into a short moving clip or "remix" it into a cartoon style are fun, but they're not what you want for a memorial or a family tribute. Stick with a highlight video.

TIP

Getting the video onto a USB stick

Once it's saved, the highlight video is in your Google Photos library like any other video. On a computer, open it at photos.google.com and download it, then copy the file to a USB stick. My Google Photos manual covers downloading.

CHAPTER 13

Windows: Meet Clipchamp

If you made slideshows on an older Windows computer, you may remember the **Video Editor** inside the Photos app. Microsoft has removed it. The Photos app in Windows 11 no longer includes Video Editor, and Microsoft now recommends **Clipchamp**, its own video editor, instead.

GOOD TO KNOW

Miss the old Video Editor?

Microsoft offers an app called **Photos Legacy** in the Microsoft Store that still includes the old Video Editor. It works, but Clipchamp is where Microsoft is putting its effort, so this book uses Clipchamp.

What Clipchamp costs

Clipchamp's personal version has a **free plan** that's enough for a family slideshow: Microsoft says it exports videos **without a watermark at up to 1080p** (Full HD), and includes royalty-free stock music. Extras such as 4K exports and premium stock music come with qualifying Microsoft 365 subscriptions. You don't need them for a slideshow.

Finding Clipchamp

- Click **Start** and type **Clipchamp**. On most Windows 11 computers it's already installed.
- If it isn't there, get it from the **Microsoft Store** (search for Microsoft Clipchamp). Don't download it from anywhere else (Chapter 24).
- The first time, you'll sign in with your **Microsoft account**, the same one you use for Windows, Outlook.com or OneDrive.

Two ways to start

Way	How it works
From the Photos app	Select your photos in the Windows **Photos** app and choose the **create a video** option. Clipchamp opens with those pictures already loaded.
Let Clipchamp build it (auto compose)	On Clipchamp's home page, choose **Create a video with AI**. You add the photos and pick a style, and it makes a first draft with music. Chapter 14 walks through it.
Build it yourself	Start a new video in Clipchamp, add your photos and arrange them on the timeline. Chapter 14 covers this too.

TIP

No Save button, and that's fine

In Clipchamp for personal accounts, your work saves automatically as you go. There's no Save button to remember. You can close it and come back later to the same project.

CHAPTER 14

Clipchamp Step by Step

The quick way: Create a video with AI

1. Open **Clipchamp** and select **Create a video with AI**.
2. Name your video, add the photos you want included, then select **Get started**.
3. Pick style preferences with thumbs up or thumbs down, or select **Choose for me**, then **Next**.
4. Choose **landscape** (wide, best for a TV), choose the video length, preview the draft, then select **Next**.
5. Keep the suggested music, or select **Music** to hear and choose another track.
6. Not quite right? Choose **Create a new version**, or open it in the timeline to trim, reorder and change the text and timing yourself.

HEADS UP

Check the AI's choices

Microsoft itself advises reviewing an AI-made video before you export it, especially the order, timing and any words on screen. For a memorial, go through every picture.

The hands-on way: build it on the timeline

- Start a new video and import your photos (drag the event folder into Clipchamp's media area).
- Drag the photos down onto the **timeline** at the bottom, in order.
- Drag the edge of a photo on the timeline to make it stay up longer or shorter.
- Add a title or caption with the text tools.

Add music

1. In the left sidebar, open the **Content library** and choose the audio or **Music** section.
2. Browse by mood or genre, or search with a word like "piano" or "gentle."
3. Click the **+** button on a track (or drag it) to put it on the timeline under your photos.
4. To make it softer, select the music on the timeline and open the **audio** tab on the property panel to lower the volume.

TIP

Using your own song file

Audio you import yourself lands in **My media**; drag it onto the timeline the same way. Chapter 16 explains when that's fine and when it can cause trouble online.

Save it as a video file

1. Click **Export** in the top-right corner of the editor.
2. Choose **1080p**, then select **Export**. Clipchamp makes an **MP4** file.
3. Wait for the progress bar to reach 100%. Longer videos take longer.
4. Select **Save to your computer** and choose a folder, such as Videos or your USB stick.

GOOD TO KNOW

Work or school account?

If you signed in to Clipchamp with a work or school account, it behaves differently: finished videos are uploaded to an Exports folder in that organization's OneDrive. For a family slideshow, use your personal Microsoft account.

CHAPTER 15

Free Websites: Canva and Adobe Express

If you'd rather not install anything, two well-known websites let you build a slideshow video in your web browser on any computer, including a Chromebook. Both have free plans and paid upgrades. Both need you to make an account with an email address.

Canva

- Go to **canva.com** and search the templates for "slideshow" or "memorial video."
- Canva says its slideshow maker is free, with no limit on how many you make or download.
- Canva's help center says free users can download **MP4 videos up to 30 minutes long**, at 1080p.
- There are free music tracks in the built-in library; a wider range is part of the paid Canva Pro. You can also upload your own MP3 file.

HEADS UP

Watch for paid extras

Some templates, photos and songs in Canva are paid extras. Before you spend an hour on a design, check that the template and music you picked are marked free, or you may be asked to upgrade when you download.

Adobe Express

- Go to **adobe.com/express** and look for the slideshow or video templates.
- Adobe describes its slideshow maker as free, with a free plan for anyone and many templates.
- You can add royalty-free soundtracks from the editor's audio section, or import your own audio.
- When you're done, select **Download** at the top right to save an MP4 video.

GOOD TO KNOW

Plans change

Free plans on websites change more often than apps on your phone. What's free this month may be a paid feature next year. If a site asks for a card number just to download your video, stop and check the plan before you agree to anything.

	Canva	Adobe Express	Clipchamp
Works on	Any web browser, plus apps	Any web browser, plus apps	Windows 11 app, or web
Free plan saves	MP4, up to 30 min, 1080p	MP4 download	MP4, up to 1080p, no watermark
Music	Free library plus your own	Royalty-free tracks plus your own	Free stock music plus your own
Paid upgrade	Canva Pro	A paid Adobe plan	Some Microsoft 365 plans

FROM BILL

My honest advice

If you're on Windows, use Clipchamp; it's already there. On a Mac, use Photos. Canva and Adobe Express are good choices for a Chromebook, or when a family member who already knows one of them is helping.

PART 5

Music

Music carries a slideshow. Here's how to choose songs, how to use them without trouble, and why YouTube or Facebook may silence a well-known song.

CHAPTER 16

Choosing Music, and Using It Safely

The right music turns a series of pictures into something people remember. It's also the part of a slideshow most likely to cause a hiccup, because songs belong to the people who wrote and recorded them. The good news is that the rules are simple for most families.

Three kinds of music

Kind	What to know
Music that comes with the app	The soundtracks built into iMovie, Photos, Google Photos, Clipchamp, Canva and Adobe Express. Made to be used in your videos. The safest choice, especially if the video will go online.
A song you bought or own	Usually fine for playing at home or at a private family event. Posting it online is where trouble can start (Chapter 17).
Streaming music (Apple Music, Spotify and the like)	These songs are licensed for you to *listen* to, not to put inside a video you share. Many apps won't let you add them, or won't include them when you share.

GOOD TO KNOW

What the app makers say

Apple's iMovie guide says songs bought from the iTunes Store may be used in a movie only if you hold the copyright or have permission. Google says the music included with Google Photos is for personal, non-commercial use. Microsoft says Clipchamp's stock audio can be used in the videos you make, but the music files themselves can't be downloaded and passed on.

Choosing the songs

- **Ask the family**, especially for a memorial. A favorite hymn, a wedding song, or the music someone always played in the car means more than any professional soundtrack.
- **Gentle and steady** works best behind pictures. Songs with a strong beat can feel rushed.
- **Mind the words.** Listen to the whole song, including verses you don't usually hear.
- **Leave a little quiet** at the end. A few seconds of silence after the last picture is fine.

TIP

Playing a song separately

At a venue, another option is to make the slideshow with no music (or quiet app music) and have the venue play the family's chosen song through its own sound system at the same time. Ask the venue whether it can do this (Chapter 21).

Timing the pictures to the music

You don't have to line up every picture with the beat. Most apps do the math for you: the Mac Photos app has **Fit to Music**, Google Photos templates follow the beat, and Clipchamp's AI draft picks music to match. Just check that the music doesn't stop abruptly in the middle of a picture; if it does, add or remove a few photos, or let the song fade out.

CHAPTER 17

Why YouTube and Facebook May Mute Your Song

A family member uploads the slideshow to YouTube or Facebook so relatives far away can watch, and a day later the music is gone, or the video won't play at all. That's not a mistake on your part. It's how these sites protect songwriters and record companies.

What happens on YouTube

YouTube automatically compares every upload with a large collection of copyrighted music. When it finds a match, it places a **copyright claim** on the video. What happens next is up to the song's owner: the video may stay up with ads, or it may be **muted or blocked**, everywhere or in some countries. A claim like this usually doesn't harm your account; it just affects that video.

If it happens, YouTube Studio offers fixes: trim out the part with the song, replace the song with a free track from YouTube's Audio Library, or mute the claimed part. Only dispute a claim if you truly own the rights; a dispute without good reason can lead to a copyright strike on your channel.

What happens on Facebook

Meta, which runs Facebook and Instagram, says that you're responsible for the music in what you post, and that if you use music you don't own without permission, your video may be **blocked, muted or removed**. Using longer stretches of a song makes that more likely. Meta offers its own **Sound Collection** of music you can use instead.

HEADS UP

"I don't own this music" doesn't help

You'll see videos with a note saying "No copyright intended" or "I don't own the rights to this music." Those words don't give anyone permission, and they won't stop a video from being muted.

The simple way to avoid all of this

1. Make **two versions** of the slideshow if you can: one with the family's chosen songs for the event itself, and one with the app's included music for posting online.

2. Or share the video **privately** instead of posting it publicly: a Google Photos or iCloud link, a shared album, or a file sent to the people who asked for it (Chapter 22).

FROM BILL

My honest advice

For a funeral or a party in a rented room, play the music the family wants. For the copy you post online, use the app's own music. You'll have both, and nobody's video goes silent.

PART 6

Saving, Showing and Sharing

Saving the slideshow as a video you can carry anywhere, getting it onto a TV at home or at a venue, and sharing it with family who couldn't be there.

CHAPTER 18

Saving It as a Video File, and Keeping Copies

Once the slideshow is finished, the most important thing you can do is save it as a **video file** and keep **at least two copies** in different places. Then nothing on the day depends on a single phone or laptop.

The settings that matter

Setting	Choose
Format	**MP4**. Clipchamp makes MP4 automatically; Canva and Adobe Express offer it; iMovie and Photos on a Mac make a standard video file most TVs and computers can play.
Size (resolution)	**1080p** is the sweet spot for a TV. Choose 720p if the file needs to be smaller to email or upload. 4K is rarely worth the much larger file.
Shape	**Landscape** (wide), to fill a TV screen. Vertical videos made for phones show with big black bars on a TV.

Where each app saves it

Made with	Where the video ends up
iPhone memory movie	Shared with **Share Movie** (Chapter 8).
iMovie on iPhone	**Save Video** puts it in Photos; **Save to Files** puts it in Files.
Photos on a Mac	Wherever you choose when you click Export.
iMovie on a Mac	Wherever you choose with File > Share > File.
Google Photos	In your Google Photos library; download it to get a file.
Clipchamp	Wherever you choose after **Save to your computer**.
Canva, Adobe Express	Your computer's **Downloads** folder, unless you choose otherwise.

Keep two or three copies

1. **On the computer or phone** you made it on.
2. **On a USB stick** you'll carry to the event (and a second stick if the event matters a lot).
3. **Online**, in iCloud Drive, Google Drive, OneDrive or your photo library, so you can reach it from any device if a stick goes missing.

TIP

Name the file clearly

Call the file something anyone would recognize, such as **Mary Smith Celebration of Life.mp4**, not "Untitled 3." At a venue, a staff member may be the one looking for it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep the project too

Don't delete the project in the app after you save the video. If someone spots a misspelled name or a missing photo, you can fix the project and save a new video in minutes.

CHAPTER 19

Showing It on a TV Without Wires: AirPlay and Google Cast

At home, the easiest way to get a slideshow onto the TV is wirelessly, straight from your phone, tablet or computer. Which method you use depends on your device and your TV.

You have	Use
iPhone, iPad or Mac	**AirPlay**, to an Apple TV or a smart TV that supports AirPlay 2.
Android phone, or Chrome on a computer	**Google Cast**, to a Chromecast, a Google TV Streamer or a TV with Google Cast built in.
Google Photos on an iPhone	Either: Google Cast to a Chromecast, or AirPlay to an Apple TV.

AirPlay from an iPhone

Your iPhone and the TV must be on the **same Wi-Fi network**.

1. To play a video: start it playing, tap the screen to show the controls, then tap the **AirPlay** button (a rectangle with a triangle) and choose your TV.
2. To show photos or a Photos slideshow: open a photo, tap the **Share** button, swipe up, tap **AirPlay** and choose your TV. Then start the slideshow.
3. If a code appears on the TV, type it on your iPhone.
4. To stop, tap the AirPlay button near the top of the screen, then tap **Turn off AirPlay**.

Google Cast from Google Photos

Your phone or computer and the TV must be on the **same Wi-Fi network**.

1. In the Google Photos app, open the video or album.
2. Tap **More**, then **Cast**, and choose your Chromecast or TV.
3. Open the video or photo to show it on the TV.
4. To stop, tap **Cast**, then **Stop casting** (Android) or **Disconnect** (iPhone).

On a computer, open **photos.google.com** in the Chrome browser, click **More**, then **Cast**, and choose the TV.

HEADS UP

Wireless is for home

Wireless casting depends on Wi-Fi. At a funeral home, church hall or restaurant, you may not be able to join the same network as their TV, or the network may be busy. For events away from home, use a cable or a USB stick (Chapter 20), and keep casting as your backup.

TIP

Turn off interruptions

Before you start, turn on **Do Not Disturb** (or a Focus) on your phone, so a text message doesn't pop up over Grandma's wedding photo in front of the whole room.

CHAPTER 20

Showing It on a TV with a Cable or a USB Stick

For events, the most dependable ways to play a slideshow are a **cable** from a laptop or phone to the TV, or the video on a **USB stick** plugged straight into the TV. Neither needs Wi-Fi.

A laptop and an HDMI cable

- Most laptops have an **HDMI** port, or a USB-C port that works with a USB-C to HDMI adapter.
- Plug one end into the laptop and the other into a free HDMI port on the TV. Note the port's number.
- On the TV remote, press **Input** or **Source** and choose that HDMI number.
- Play the video full-screen. Use the computer's own sound settings if the sound comes out of the laptop instead of the TV.

TIP

Plug the laptop in

Bring the laptop's charger, and turn off its sleep and screen-saver settings for the day, so the screen doesn't go dark halfway through. A long enough HDMI cable is worth buying; venues rarely have a spare.

An iPhone and a cable

iPhone 15 and later models (except the iPhone 16e and iPhone 17e) can connect to a TV through their **USB-C** port. Apple's **USB-C Digital AV Multiport Adapter** works, and it has an extra port so you can charge the iPhone while it's connected. The TV shows exactly what's on your iPhone screen. Older iPhones with a Lightning port need Apple's Lightning Digital AV Adapter, or can use AirPlay.

A USB stick in the TV

Many smart TVs have a USB port and a built-in media player. Copy the video file onto a USB stick, plug it into the TV, choose the USB stick as the source (or open the TV's media or "Connected Devices" menu), and select the video. No laptop needed.

HEADS UP

Not every TV plays every file

This is where most day-of trouble starts. Samsung, for example, notes that some files may not play depending on the TV model and how the video was made, and that older TVs read different kinds of USB stick than newer ones. A very large file can also be a problem on sticks formatted the older way. Always test the stick in **that exact TV** before the day, or ask the venue to test it.

Giving a USB stick the best chance

- Save the video as **MP4 at 1080p**. It's the most widely supported choice.
- Put the video at the **top level** of the stick, not buried in folders, and keep only that video (and maybe a backup copy) on it.
- Use a plain, inexpensive stick plugged **directly** into the TV. Samsung says extension cables can stop a stick from being recognized.
- Bring the same file on a second stick, and on your phone or laptop.

GOOD TO KNOW

More about your TV

My Smart TVs manual explains inputs, sources and the TV's own media player in more detail, and my TV Cables & Connections manual covers HDMI ports and adapters.

CHAPTER 21

At a Funeral Home, Church or Venue

Most funeral homes, churches, banquet halls and restaurants have shown family slideshows many times. They often have a TV or projector ready and someone who knows how it works. The secret is to **ask early** exactly what they need, and to bring a backup.

Questions to ask, a few days ahead

1. **How do you play slideshows?** From a USB stick, a laptop we bring, a file we email, or a link?
2. **What file format and size** do you prefer? (MP4 is the usual answer.)
3. **How long can it run**, and will it loop during visitation?
4. **Will the music play** through your speakers, and can you control the volume?
5. **Can we send it early** so you can test it?
6. **What connections does your TV or projector have**, if we bring a laptop? HDMI is most common.
7. **Who will press play**, and who should we call on the day if something goes wrong?

TIP

Many funeral homes offer to make it

Some funeral homes make tribute videos from photos the family provides, or use an online service that does. If time is short, ask what they offer and what it costs. You can still choose the photos and music.

What to bring on the day

- The video on a **USB stick**, clearly labeled with the person's name and your phone number.
- A **second USB stick** with the same file.
- The video on your **phone or laptop**, and a copy in iCloud, Google Drive or OneDrive.
- If you're bringing a laptop: its **charger**, an **HDMI cable** and any adapter it needs.

FROM BILL

Hand it over, then let go

If the venue has a staff member running the screen, give them the stick, watch the first minute together, and then step away. On a day like this, you deserve to be with your family, not standing by the TV.

CHAPTER 22

Sharing with Family Far Away

Some of the people who would most love to see the slideshow can't be in the room. A video file is usually far too big to attach to an email, so share a **link** instead.

Way	How it works
Google Photos	Open the video, tap **Share**, and send it, or a link to it, by text or email. My Google Photos manual covers sharing in detail.
iPhone and Mac	Put the video in a **shared album** and invite family, including those with Android phones or Windows computers. My Apple Photos manual shows how.
OneDrive, Google Drive or iCloud Drive	Upload the file and share a link to it. Good for relatives who want to download their own copy.
YouTube	Can work, but watch out for muted music (Chapter 17). If you post there, consider making the video unlisted or private rather than public.

HEADS UP

Think before posting publicly

A memorial slideshow often includes names, dates, the town and photos of the home. Posting it publicly shares all of that with strangers. A private link sent to family keeps it among the people it was made for.

TIP

A gift that lasts

After the event, many families copy the slideshow onto USB sticks for each household, or add it to a digital photo frame. My Digital Photo Frames and Photo Printing & Photo Books manuals have more keepsake ideas.

PART 7

Memorials, and Staying Safe

Making a memorial slideshow with care when you're grieving, and avoiding the fake "free slideshow maker" downloads that prey on people in a hurry.

CHAPTER 23

Making a Memorial Slideshow, Gently

If you're making a slideshow for a funeral, a memorial or a celebration of life, I'm sorry for your loss. This may be one of the most meaningful things you ever make, and it's often done in the middle of a hard week with a hundred other things to arrange. Be kind to yourself. It doesn't need to be perfect. It needs to be *them*.

Share the work

- **Ask for help.** One person can gather photos while another chooses music. A grandchild who's comfortable with apps can do the assembling while you choose the pictures.
- **Choosing photos brings up feelings.** That's normal. Many families find it becomes a time of sharing stories. Take breaks.
- **Set a "good enough" point.** Decide a time when the slideshow is finished, even if a cousin sends one more photo later. Those can go into a keepsake version afterward.

Ideas that work well

Idea	Why it helps
An opening picture	A favorite recent photo, with the person's name and years, held for a few extra seconds.
A life in order	Childhood to recent years (Chapter 4). People enjoy recognizing themselves along the way.
The things they loved	The garden, the workshop, the fishing boat, the dog, the team they cheered for.
A few simple captions	"Navy, 1962" or "The cabin, Lake Erie." Short words help guests who didn't know every chapter of the person's life.
A gentle ending	A last favorite photo, or a picture of the whole family together, left on screen as the music fades.

A respectful pace

- Keep each photo up a little longer than for a party, about **6 to 8 seconds**.
- Choose **simple fades** rather than spinning or bouncing effects. Most apps let you change the transition, and a "classic" or "gentle" style is usually best.
- Keep the volume soft during a visitation, when people are talking quietly.
- If the slideshow will **loop** during visitation, add a few seconds of a single photo at the end so the restart isn't jarring.

HEADS UP

Check names, dates and spellings

Ask a second family member to watch the whole slideshow before it's final, and to check every name, date and caption. A small mistake is easy to fix the night before, and painful to notice in the room.

FROM BILL

When it's too much

There's no shame in handing this job to someone else. A funeral home, a family friend, or I can put it together from the photos and music you choose. Your job this week is to grieve and to be with your family.

CHAPTER 24

Scams: Fake Slideshow Makers and Downloads

When you search the web for "free slideshow maker" or "convert video to MP4," you'll find hundreds of websites and downloads. Many are honest. Some are traps. People in a hurry, and people who are grieving, are exactly who scammers count on.

What the FBI warns about

The FBI has warned that criminals run **free online file converter** websites, including ones that claim to convert or download MP3 and MP4 files. The tool may even do what it promises, but the file you get back can carry hidden **malware**, which can lead to ransomware locking up your computer. These sites can also scrape the files you upload for personal information, banking details and passwords.

The FBI's advice is to download software, **especially free software**, only from sites you know and trust. It has also warned that hijacked social media accounts post links to "free software" downloads that lead to malware.

SCAM ALERT

"Free Slideshow Maker, download now"

An ad or search result offers a free program that will make your slideshow in minutes, and asks you to download and install it. You don't need it. Your phone or computer already has a good slideshow tool (Chapter 3). If you do want another app, get it only from the App Store, Google Play or the Microsoft Store.

SCAM ALERT

"Your video is ready, click to download"

After you upload photos to an unfamiliar site, an email or pop-up says your video is ready and asks you to install a "player" or "codec" to watch it, or to enter a card number to "unlock" it. Close the page. A real video file plays without installing anything.

SCAM ALERT

A pop-up says your computer is infected

A website suddenly shows a loud warning that your computer has a virus and gives a phone number to call. It's fake. Close the browser, and never call the number. My Pop-Ups & Fake Virus Alerts manual explains what to do.

Warning signs

- A site asks you to **download a program** when you expected to work in your browser.
- A "free" tool asks for your **card number** before showing you anything.
- The download ends in **.exe**, **.zip** or **.dmg** when you were expecting a video.
- The site's name is close to a well-known brand, but spelled slightly differently.
- A message pushes you to **hurry**: "Offer ends tonight," "Download in the next 5 minutes."

TIP

Safe places to get slideshow tools

Apple's App Store and Mac App Store (iMovie), Google Play (Google Photos), the Microsoft Store (Clipchamp), or by typing **canva.com** or **adobe.com/express** into the address bar yourself.

If you already clicked or installed something

1. **Don't panic**, and don't call any number that appeared on screen.
2. **Disconnect from the internet** if you think a program is doing something on its own.
3. If you typed a **password** into the site, change it from a different device you trust.
4. If you gave a **card number**, call the number on the back of your card.
5. Run a scan with your security software, or call someone you trust to check the computer.
6. Report it to the FBI at **ic3.gov**.

PART 8

The Night Before, Help and Your Cheat-Sheet

A calm checklist for the evening before the event, an honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary.

CHAPTER 25

The Night Before: Your Checklist

Set aside half an hour the evening before. Go down this list with the slideshow in front of you, and you'll walk in the next day knowing it will work.

The slideshow itself

1. **Watch it all the way through**, start to finish, with the sound on.
2. **Check every name, date and caption**, ideally with a second person.
3. Check that **no photo is sideways** and no faces are cut off.
4. Check the **music**: it starts on time, isn't too loud, and doesn't stop abruptly.
5. Check the **length** matches what the venue or organizer expects.

The file and the copies

1. The video is saved as a **video file** (MP4 at 1080p if you had the choice).
2. It's on **USB stick number one**, labeled with the name and your phone number.
3. It's on **USB stick number two**.
4. It's on your **phone or laptop**, and in **iCloud, Google Drive or OneDrive**.
5. You've **played the file from the USB stick** itself, not just from the computer.

The screen

1. You've **tested it on the actual TV**, or the venue has confirmed it plays.
2. If you're bringing a laptop: it's **charged**, its **charger** is packed, and sleep and screen savers are turned off.
3. The **HDMI cable** and any **adapter** are packed.
4. Your phone has **Do Not Disturb** ready to turn on.
5. You know **who will press play**, and you have the venue contact's phone number.

> TIP
>
> **Bring a printed photo too**
>
> It has nothing to do with technology, but a framed print of a favorite photo by the screen is a lovely touch, and it's there even if the TV isn't.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this list matters

Nearly every slideshow problem on the day is one of three things: a file the TV won't play, a laptop that went to sleep, or no backup. This checklist takes care of all three before you leave the house.

CHAPTER 26

When to Call Bill

I've written this book so you can make a beautiful slideshow on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry, especially with a deadline, so here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **The event is days away** and the photos are still scattered across phones, computers and shoeboxes. We can gather them into one place together.
- **Moving photos** from an old phone, a computer, CDs or a family member's account.
- **Building the slideshow with you**, on your own device, so you know how to change it later.
- **Saving it as a video** and making sure it plays on the TV or projector you'll be using.
- **Setting up AirPlay or Google Cast** at home, or connecting a laptop to a TV.
- **A download, pop-up or message you're not sure about.** Ask before you click.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace: no rushing, no talking down, and no jargon. I explain what I'm doing in plain words, and I'll tell you honestly when an app or gadget isn't worth your money. I serve Portage County, Ohio, and I bring more than 30 years of professional experience to every visit. And when the slideshow is for someone you've lost, I'll treat your photos with the care they deserve.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call or text **(330) 200-8042**, or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. Help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. If I'm with another customer, my AI receptionist, Sophie, will answer and make sure I get back to you. If your event is close, tell her the date. No question is too small.

Thank you for letting me help you tell your family's story. Whether it's a celebration or a goodbye, the pictures you choose will mean a great deal to the people in that room.

— Bill

CHAPTER 27

Your Photo Slideshow Cheat-Sheet

Print just this page and keep it with your slideshow notes. The whole book, boiled down.

Where things are

I want	Go here
iPhone quick slideshow	Photos > Collections > album > **More** > **Start Slideshow**.
iPhone video	iMovie > project > **Share** > **Share Video** > **Save Video**.
Android or Google Photos	Google Photos > **Create** > **Highlight video**.
Windows	**Clipchamp** > Create a video with AI > **Export** > 1080p.
Mac	Photos > File > Create > **Slideshow** > Photos; then **Export**.
Any computer	**canva.com** or **adobe.com/express**, typed in yourself.

Rules of thumb

Topic	Remember
Photos per minute	About 10 to 12 (5 to 6 seconds each); fewer for a memorial.
File to save	MP4, 1080p, landscape (wide).
Music	Family's songs for the event; the app's own music for posting online.
Copies	Computer, two USB sticks, and online.
Testing	On the real TV, a day ahead.

Keep handy

Item	
Event date and time	_____
Venue contact and phone	_____
How the venue plays it	_____
Length requested	_____
Songs chosen	_____
Where my online copy is	_____

Safety, in three lines

- Don't download a "free slideshow maker" from an ad. You already have one.
- A real video never needs you to install a "player" or enter a card number to watch it.
- Share memorial videos by private link, not publicly.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

You've got this

You can now gather the photos, put them in order, set them to music, save a video and get it onto the screen, with a backup in your pocket. When you'd like a hand, call (330) 200-8042.