

## Outreach Ideas

- As a welcome gift to guests at worship, give them a jar of sundae topping. Put this message on the jar: “Thanks for worshipping with us! You made our Sunday! Now let us help you make your next Sundae!” –OR– Send visitors home with a loaf of bread and a note in the package quoting Jesus, ‘I am the bread of life’ (John 6:35). Express the hope that the guest has been well-fed and will return to eat again.
- Make simple door hangers. Print on them the following: Worship times for Holy Week and Easter. Add clip art of an empty Easter basket with this slogan: “Is your Easter basket a little empty this year? Fill it with the love of Jesus.” Gather a group and canvas the town hanging them on every house door. No verbal invitation is necessary, so this is a non-threatening way to invite others to worship.
- On a cold winter’s day, take your youth group or other group to the neighborhood grocery store. Outside of the store, distribute hot chocolate, free of charge. Print labels and put on the cups: “Jesus warms your heart.” On a Spring day, take a group to a busy intersection in your town. Distribute seed packets of flowers or vegetables, free of charge. Print labels and put on the seed packets: “God Bless You. May your faith grow like the seeds in the Spring time.” Don’t forget to add the name of your church and worship times.
- Equip members to invite people to worship and other events by supplying them with business cards containing information about the church. Each member should be invited to use these cards as invitations whenever opportunities present themselves. Don’t forget to include the congregation’s website address.
- Host a “Sunday in the Park”. Have a worship service, followed by a meal, and then invite musicians from the congregation and community to continue to entertain during and after the meal. It can be a great time of music and fellowship.
- Participate in local events. Make a float for a parade, have a bake sale at a community celebration, support the local booster club, volunteer at the local nursing home, sponsor a team in the local basketball or volleyball league. Open your building to community events and groups (i.e., scouts, 4-H, AA). Each time a person enters your church building, there is an opportunity for outreach and building relationships.
- Reach out to seasonal visitors in creative and intentional ways. Send out flyers to ‘boxholder’ and offer a ‘coupon’ for a free cup of coffee. Put brochures in area resorts, motels, grocery stores, and campgrounds.
- Invite people to experience the gathered faith community by intentionally scheduling ‘friendship’ or ‘welcome’ Sundays; fellowship activities, such as dinner theater or corn roast; youth and family activities; sports events or teams; and community classes. Call bring a friend Sunday, “Pop-In Sunday”. Rent a commercial popcorn popper and ‘fire it up’, so the smell of popcorn fills the building and give each worshipper a bag of popcorn to enjoy during worship.
- Don’t have enough children to put on a Christmas program at your church? Why not try having a community Christmas pageant in cooperation with the other churches in your community. Advertise it as a ‘drama production’ and perhaps you’ll have the opportunity to include unchurched children and youth, as well. Include a soup supper and have it in a public space outside the church and start a new and meaningful Christmas tradition for your community.
- Take breakfast to the workers at businesses in your communities. Choose 3-4 businesses per month. Deliver sweet rolls, muffins, etc. and attach a note thanking them for serving your community. Make this an even more powerful outreach by praying with the people at the business when you deliver the goodies.
- How many children come to Sunday School in your church and how many children could be coming to Sunday School? Increase Sunday School attendance by matching each child with an adult ‘Church Buddy’. Encourage them to exchange notes, emails, text messages and phone calls. Adults can offer the children a ride to Sunday School, sit with them in church, and encourage faithful attendance.

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