

Resources for Inter-Church Celebrations

Provided by the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR)

Pentecost

Pentecost has become important for many Christian denominations and independent churches as an emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The various churches in the community are a manifestation of the various gifts that the Spirit has given to the Church. Celebrate these with a combined service on Pentecost, Sunday, May 20. Pentecost points to the breaking down of barriers between differing cultures and people hearing the Gospel in language they can understand.

Discipleship Ministries has resources for worship planning for Pentecost at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/church-civic-holidays/day-of-pentecost>

National Day of Prayer

People of different faiths gathered to lift up the nation in prayer; Organizing an ecumenical or interfaith service of prayer on National Day of Prayer is a way to bridge differences and form relationships that can have long-term benefits in your community.

More resources are available at the National Day of Prayer website, <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

Back to School Celebrations

What if you hosted an event that brought hundreds of schoolchildren out to meet your church people and enjoy a festival day of free food and fun?

For several years, churches in Minerva Ohio have worked together to put on a Family Fun Day on a Saturday before school starts. This free event, done in cooperation with the scouts and area businesses has provided inflatables, games, crafts, hot dogs, ice cream, and door prizes, in one four hour celebration. Often it is coordinated with the time when backpacks of school supplies can be picked up by area children from lower income families.

A simple registration procedure gathers the names and addresses of families in the community, along with just one, question; "Do you attend church?" The unchurched family contact information is made available to churches who can then make sure they are invited to fall and Christmas events.

Planning for such a Back to School Celebration should begin now, and you will be surprised at the enthusiastic response from your community partners. Expect the schools, area businesses, area helping organizations, and your own people to welcome this event.

If you would like to know more about planning a back-to school event, the link below will help. Pastor Harley Wheeler, of Minerva UMC, can always share with you or your people about Minerva's Family Fun Day, contact him at revharleywheeler@hotmail.com

UM Discipleship Ministries has many Back-to-School ministry ideas at <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/ideas-for-back-to-school-ministries-from-united-methodist-communications>