

Hospitality Hints for Church Bulletins

These are designed to be brief enough to tuck in a small space in the church bulletin but bold enough to pack a punch! ☺

Each time one is inserted in the bulletin, include the words Hospitality Hint: then the hint.

When you sit down in an empty pew, slide over to the middle. This allows space at the ends for guests or late-comers so they don't have to crawl over you.

Learn to know the names of children and youth who sit near you. Introduce yourself and smile at them.

Park a little farther away from the church door – on purpose! Leave close parking spaces for guests and latecomers.

Got a new neighbor? Bring cookies and a church brochure and invite them to attend.

Offer the gift of encouragement. Coax someone to use their gifts as a teacher, greeter, etc.

Offer assistance to a visitor with a physical disability.

Invite a neighbor to Wednesday Night Fellowship meal.

Smile at a visitor during an informal moment in the worship service – let them know with your face that you are glad they are here.

Make sure newcomers have information about weekly church activities or coming events.

“Friend” your church’s Facebook page.

If someone is standing by themselves in the hall or courtyard, start up a conversation.

Allow yourself more time to talk with guests than with regular attenders.

Don't stop with a “Good Morning.” Say “Welcome, we are glad you are here.”

Prepare a little extra for Sunday dinner and invite someone home!

Offer to show visitors around the church – the library, classrooms, offices, restrooms. Point out seasonal displays or ongoing projects.

If you have a guest in Sunday School - invite them to sit with you in worship.

Linger after the worship service to offer a welcome to those who may be visiting.

Greet children, youth and adults by name.

Make sure everyone has a church bulletin or order of service.

Everyone in this church is a minister of hospitality!

Invite a new attendee to join you for Sunday School, today or next week.

Keep a keen eye out for someone who looks disoriented. Our church may seem difficult to navigate for a first time attendee.

Be a good listener! Nod, maintain eye contact and let others know you care.

Remember to sign in complete information on the welcome pad. Feel free to take a look at who else is sitting in your row and talk with them after the service.

Be willing to sit in an unfamiliar place so that guests can have your spot.

Speak and listen to a child on their eye level.

Offer to help young parents with their children during church.

“Never Alone” is a good motto for approaching guests. Accompany them to Sunday School, Worship, fellowship time, out to the parking lot. Think “companionship” not smothering.

Hospitality is the essence of the church’s life and witness.

Make new friends, but keep the old.

Our mission is not just over there, it is right here!

Share a happy story with those sitting near you.

Hospitality is treating the stranger as a friend.

Got 10- 15 bucks? Take out two new friends for a no-frills lunch.

Hospitality is the art of creating friendly space for the stranger.

Our mission, should we decided to accept it, is to make our church so attractive and welcoming that people will come once and decide to stay.

Share with someone why you are glad to call this church “home.”

Be available....for new relationships!

Hospitality is not wondering who “those folks are, over there,” it is walking over and introducing yourself.

Intentionally linger after worship and seek out those who you do not know.

Be careful about playing the “Mennonite Game” and finding a connection with someone new. There are a thousand other ways to connect with new folks other than this exclusive practice.

Offering hospitality has the power to transform our lives.

Invite someone over tonight for ice cream.

Introduce a new friend to an old friend.

Invite a college student home for dinner.

Offer your home or yard as a gathering place for the youth.

Hospitality means embracing strangers as friends so that they feel included, loved and accepted.

Walk around with a smile – it’s a display of “I am happy to be here!”

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