

Inspire! Invite! Thank!

Generosity, Giving & Gratitude Seasonal Ideas

February – The Season of Epiphany

Valentine's Day & Family Day (long weekend in most of Canada)

Inspire!

1. The season of Epiphany is the time that tells us we are people of the light—the light of Christ that shines from within us. Invite people to recognize how we let that light shine out into the world. How could this be shared in your community of faith?
2. In the weeks leading up to the annual meeting, highlight an area of ministry in your congregation and recognize the people who are involved.
3. Inspire gratitude and celebrate love in February. Give everyone in the congregation a thank-you card (perhaps made by the Sunday School) and invite them to write a note of thanks for someone they know who is doing something for others. Like Valentine, they could remain anonymous.

Invite!

1. Take a close look at the 2019 *Loving Our Neighbours* giving program that was mailed to all congregations in January. Plan when you will use it this year: Lent (with worship services prepared by our new Moderator, Richard Bott) or early or late fall (resources for these two times can be found on stewardshiptoolkit.ca). How will you invite generosity this year? Resources for hosting a community meal are also in the kit.
2. Invite a group of four to six people for a simple supper each week in Epiphany (or in Lent) and discuss faith sharing questions. Sharing Faith Dinners (www.sharingfaithdinners.com) has some suggestions.

Thank!

1. Tie together Family Day and Valentine's Day and suggest ways to thank the people to whom you are most closely related, in whatever meaning "related" has for you.
2. Preach a sermon on giving thanks. This is a favourite theme in the Epistles, especially 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 3: 16-17; Philippians 4:6; and Ephesians 5:20.
3. Sing a thank-you to your choir.

ONGOING

Bring a group of leaders together to evaluate trends in giving over the past three to five years. Look at the giving in each month for those years. Is it consistent? Does it change? When does it change? Look at the average size of monthly gifts and how many gifts fall into certain size bracket? Is the average gift consistent from month to month?

THINKING AHEAD: Preparing for March

Invite people to take a journey in Lent to explore their faith: from a brief conversation each week after church to an in-depth Lenten program. Our own new program, *Everyday Skeptics: Devotions for Spiritual Growth* is a good place to start. Pre-order it now at ucrdstore.ca.

Plan for an annual meeting that is filled with inspiring stories about how your church and people make a difference. Distribute your narrative budget and ask people to share how they came to your church and, more importantly, why they stay.

Inspire people to take on a spiritual practice this Lent. What will you let go of? What good can you add?

