

# Potpourri of Program Possibilities

Rev. Jim Humphrey, Three Rivers District

Here is a listing of over 200 possible programs in five effective practices of a fruitful congregation.

## **RADICAL HOSPITALITY**

1. Invite youth groups to overnighter (4-H, sports groups, Boy/Girl Scouts) (West Union)
2. Special Sundays (Grandparent Sunday, Scouting Sunday, Teacher Sunday, Firemen's Sunday, etc)
3. New Housing development welcome basket (Canal Lewisville, Utica)
4. Door to Door Canvassing of neighborhood (Trinway/Prospect, Bethel/Otsego) brochure of church
5. Community Wide Weiner Roast (Moreland), fall festival
6. Halloween Trunk or Treat (Millersburg)
7. Beautification committee- improvements made church welcoming (West Lafayette)
8. Caring and Connect Cards (Utica, Gay St, Mulberry)
9. Ask a specific question during Greeting time in church (Christ, Loudonville)
10. Personal written note of welcome to first time guests
11. Gift certificate from Dairy Queen (Perrysville) – Sundae for coming on a Sunday
12. Quick stop-by with gift for first time guests (bread, jam, cookies, apple butter, mug)
13. Invitations at local B&B or hotels (Mt. Hope, Millersburg)
14. Invitation fliers at local Wal Mart, business, local factory
15. Bulk mailing of flier to rural mail delivery route, or carrier route
16. "The Event" at the Coshocton Fairgrounds (Coshocton Area ministries)
17. Dessert with the Pastor– Pastries at the Parsonage (Danville)
18. Christmas/Easter/Summer Ads in the local newspaper (Coshocton Area UM Churches)
19. Breakfast with Santa, Easter Bunny (Sunbury)
20. Easter Egg Hunts
21. Family Game nights
22. S.A.M. Senior Adult Ministry – (Conesville, Grace) "Keenagers" – monthly outings
23. Youth Room or Youth Center – café, Wii, game tables, after school hang out
24. Sports ministry: soft ball team, bowling league, volleyball league, golf league, darts
25. Fantasy Football league: Sunday afternoon men's football ministry
26. Mom's Morning Out – free babysitting
27. Guest Book and Greeter/Usher at the door
28. Hospitality Captains
29. Parking lot greeters
30. Guest Parking spots
31. Nursery and Child Care
32. Church Signage (outside and inside)
33. Up-dated bulletin boards, guest book, and entrance
34. Clean Smell of the church (restrooms, nursery, entrance, basement)
35. Website – if you DON'T have a website, 80% of those under 40 will not enter your doors
36. Social Media church page on Facebook (Christ, Prairie Chapel, Holmesville)
37. [www.umcom.com](http://www.umcom.com)
  - a. Welcoming Training Manual
  - b. Comfort Checklist
  - c. Welcoming Quotient & Welcoming Tips
  - d. One-Hour Welcoming Training Session
  - e. Ideas That Show We Care
  - f. Mystery Guest Audit / Friendliness Audit
  - g. Certified Welcoming Church

## PASSIONATE WORSHIP

1. Start a New Worship Service
  - Sunday morning: earlier, outside, chapel (Utica, Roscoe, Gay St)
  - Sunday evening: youth centered (Amity, Christ Meta)
  - Once a month praise service: Monthly Gospel Sing (Birmingham, Trinway)
  - Wednesday evening: dinner, video clips, university of spiritual growth
  - Camp Site worship (Smyrna)
  - Young adult centered house church
2. Fifth Sunday of the Month Special Service
3. Special Homecoming Services (invite former friends, parishioners, pastors)
4. Portrayal of Last Supper (Otsego/Bethel)
5. Road to Bethlehem at Christmas
6. Holy Week Stations of the Cross-Passion Walk
7. Worship Series and/or Themes (during month, Lent, Advent, seasons)
8. From Cocoons to Butterflies (Lenten Theme) – Butterfly release on Easter Sunday
9. Rural-Life Day (Plainfield, Isleta, Fresno)
10. Special Sundays: Car show, Motorcycle Sunday, football jersey Sunday, walk to church Sunday, etc
11. Camp Zimmerman Worship Day (West Union)
12. ROCC Fest (Fredericktown)
13. Special Musical Groups (Hopewell – Ohio State Fair Choir, Jazz series, Blue Grass)
14. Meta – youth service (Christ)
15. Youth Service at another church (Keene to Tyndal)
16. Blended Worship (Mulberry)
17. Year round “Christian” tree (New Moscow)
18. Choir Retreat (Gay Street & Waterford)
19. Radio Worship (Grace, Prairie Chapel, Fredericktown)
20. Worship Services online (Mulberry, Fredericktown, South Vernon, Christ, Prairie Chapel )
21. Videos (God Tube) You Tube Music Videos
22. Creative Children Sermons (Jeff Wherley, Nellie Chapel)
23. Drama Team
24. Liturgical Dance (Christ)
25. Sign Language (Grace)
26. Puppet ministry
27. Acolyte ministry and training
28. Youth usher teams (Grace)
29. Bell Choirs (Gay St, Nashville, Killbuck, Roscoe, Grace)
30. Children’s Activity bags during worship
31. Altar Visuals (Charlotte Jermy’s workshop) Banner Makers
32. Sensory Worship – using all the five senses
33. Baking fresh Bread for communion Sunday
34. Children draw cover for the Bulletins (Gay St)
35. Provide time for week-long sermon retreat for pastor or preaching conference
36. Scheduled personal Witness/Testimony time during worship
37. Special musical guests, artists, preachers, superintendent (once a quarter)
38. Congregation Sing the Lord’s Prayer
39. Baptism renewal service
40. Pentecost – Red Day (everyone wear red, red geraniums, red fabrics on altar)
41. Pentecost – have the scripture read in different language(s)
42. Renewal of wedding vow service around Valentine’s day

## INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

1. Fit For Him – Exercise & walking group (Keene)
2. Delay the Disease – Exercise group for Parkinson’s patients (Waterford)
3. “HIM” -Hearing Impaired Ministry (Grace)
4. Bible 101, UMC 101 (Hopewell)
5. Lenten Health Challenge (Killbuck)
6. Lent Devotional Booklet (Gay St) – “Chicken Soup for the Soul of \_\_\_\_ Church”- members write articles
7. Movie Group (Danville)
8. Men’s Group (Waterford, Fredericktown Circuit)
9. United Methodist Women (Gay St, Grace, Fresno, Prairie Chapel, Utica)
10. UMW Reading program, church library, Book of the month, book club
11. Spiritual Growth University (Fredericktown)
12. Dinner for a Few (Keene)
13. Kid’s After School Program (Keene, Christ, Moreland, South Vernon)
14. Children’s Sunday School or Midweek
  - a. One Room School house
  - b. Learning Center education (Gay St.)
  - c. Passport to the World – MAPS (Memorize, Attend, Practice, Serve) (Cosh Presby)
  - d. Special motivation – collect points for prize
  - e. Fall Kick off Rally Day
  - f. Bible Bowl
  - g. Olympic Bible Games
  - h. Super Summer Sunday School
  - i. Write your own curriculum – do theme on miracles, parables, Sermon on Mt., etc.
15. Parenting Class – resources through county Extension Agents
16. Sermon Discussion Group (Millersburg)
17. Prayer Group, Prayer Chain
18. Prayer cards of persons to pray for (during Lent), inactive members
19. Emmaus Walks, Chrysalis Walks
20. Church Retreats – spiritual retreats at church camps for youth, families, adults
21. Alpha (a basic study of Christianity and the questions of faith)
22. Disciple Bible Studies
23. Wired Word
24. Daniel Fast
25. “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” (Bishop Schnase) (Nellie Chapel)
26. “Religions of the World Study” (Adam Hamilton)
27. “Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition” – Lay Speaker Lenten Devotional
28. “First Place” Bible Study and dieting program
29. UM Social Principles Study
30. Conference Media Resource Center ( ALL kinds of studies, videos, and programs)
31. Confirmation Classes – point motivation system
  - a. Go to visit area churches, synagogues, cathedrals
  - b. Confirmation retreat
  - c. Have DS come to speak at Concluding Confirmation Banquet
  - d. Confirmation Test
32. Mentoring – Adopt a Grandparent
33. Secret Friend, Prayer partner – send cards throughout year, give gift at Christmas
34. Spiritual Survey of the Church (read bible daily, prayer, attendance, tithing, etc)
35. Youth Ministry cooperative with other area UM churches
36. Trip to NYC for UMC United Nations Seminar OR to Washington, DC for UM Seminar

## RISK TAKING MISSION and SERVICE

1. Food Cupboards (Freeport, Lakeville)
2. Hunter's Breakfast (Plainfield)
3. Care Packages for the Military (Plainfield/Isleta, Calvary/Kings)
4. Care Packages for College Students (Keene)
5. "Care giving Isn't for Cowards" (Nursing Outreach Ministry of Warsaw)
6. Parish Nurse program (Christ)
7. Grief Support Group (Fredericktown)
8. Diaper Wars (Gay St & Hopewell)
9. Bikes for Kids (Loudonville)
10. Living Water well drilling (Liberty Chapel & Kimbolton)
11. National or International Missionary sponsorship (\$1000/year)
12. Bishop's 3 C's – Churches, Clinics, and Classrooms
13. Imagine No Malaria (formerly Nothing but Nets)
14. Local Mission support (Journey's End, Interchurch, Hope Clinic,
15. Martha's Cupboard (Fresno, Gay Street)
16. Clothes Closet (Warsaw)
17. Prayer Shawl Ministry (shawls and lap robes) – Trinway/Prospect, Roscoe, Berlin
18. Community Meal (Brandon, Perrysville, Christ Kitchen, Gay St Hot meals, Adamsville Feed the Need) – Mulberry goes to Apartment complex serve picnic style meal in summer
19. LOL – Holmes County Youth mission (Millersburg)
20. VIM Mission Trips (Nashville, Gay St, Millersburg, Christ, Adamsville,
21. "Faith, Hope, & Love" Special Needs Ministry (Roscoe)
22. Kairos & Prison Ministry (Lakeville/Bigelow, South Vernon, Mulberry, Millersburg)
23. Operation Christmas Child (Park)
24. Angel Food Ministries (Freeport, Utica)
25. Book Bags for UMCOR (Gay St- Maureen Scott)
26. Health Kits, Flood Buckets, School Kits, Medicine Boxes for UMCOR
27. Extending His Hands (Keene's Men's Group)
28. COPS –Community Outreach Project Service (Christ)
29. Blessing Card Ministry (Fredericktown Circuit) send to govt: national, state, local
30. Graduation Breakfast for graduating Seniors (Utica)
31. "Jump Start" – offer juice, hot cocoa, and coffee to parents as walk to school (Utica)
32. SWAT –"Sent With A Prayer"-assistance to special needs, utilities( Pleasant Grove), Towel & Basin – (Park)
33. Backpack ministry (Holmesville) – provided school supplies
34. School partnership & tutoring (South Vernon, Epworth)
35. Community Garden (South Vernon)
36. Bridges Out of Poverty (Terrie Baker, Coshocton)
37. Hot Meals or Mobile meals always need volunteers
38. Meals for New Moms ministry
39. UMW School of Missions
40. Mission Trips – take van/bus/car trips to mission sites for visit
41. PB& J Club to apartment complexes during summer (Mulberry)
42. AA,NA, OA – dependency recovery programs – "Celebrate Recovery"
43. Divorce Care and Divorce Care for Kids
44. Seminary, college scholarships
45. Youth Scavenger hunt for missions – give list of items to collect for missions
46. [www.ontargetoutfitters.com](http://www.ontargetoutfitters.com) - mentor and hunting academies
47. 2<sup>nd</sup> Language and Hispanic Ministries (Chasity Opphile, Christ)
48. Visitation ministry, Care ministry team, Stephen's Ministry (Grace)

## EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

1. Thank you Banquet to all Givers – Celebrate year-end report, ask for support next year
2. Faith Pledges, commitment cards, promises, tithing commitment
3. Quarterly Stewardship reports of giving with stewardship notes & thank yous
4. Year end giving report statement with Thank you
5. Noisy Offering – coins for Missions
6. Will and Bequest education
7. Endowment funds – perpetual ministry
8. Monthly Mission Emphasis - support and promote one mission per month
9. Local Parish ministry offering for assistance and needs in community-once a month
10. Stewardship Award (East Ohio Foundation)
11. Thank you Speakers from a UM Mission site
12. Paul White/Jessica Vargo come as Mission and Shared Ministry interpreter
13. Narrative Budget – telling the story of where ministry dollars go (not just numbers and figures)
14. Stewardship Mission Fair
15. Stewardship e-news
  - a. Bulletin announcements
  - b. Offering announcements
16. Stewardship programs – Fall Stewardship Campaigns
  - a. Pony Express, Circuit Rider
  - b. Consecration/Commitment Sunday
  - c. “Extravagant Generosity: Heart of Giving”
17. Financial Peace University
18. Money Matters Study
19. Crown Financial Study
20. Time, Talents, and Treasures survey
21. Spiritual Gift Inventory – where are they using their talents?
22. 2 cents per meal (Hunger Network in Ohio)
23. Campership sponsors (have a youth write a thank you for their sponsorship)
24. Talents investment – Give each congregation member \$2-\$5 and have them “invest” it
25. [www.gbod.org/stewardship](http://www.gbod.org/stewardship)
26. Fund Raisers:
  - a. Purple Potty Evangelism
  - b. Selling Stock (youth mission, campership, etc) stock holders dinner
  - c. Auctions – donation of items auctioned off
  - d. Servant service – (raking leaves, painting, cleaning, gutter cleaning, etc)
  - e. New Year’s Day Pork & Sauerkraut
  - f. Free Car Wash
  - g. Pie in the Face of the Pastor
  - h. Shave or Dye the Hair of the Pastor’s Head (Epworth)