

50 Ideas \$0-\$500

We understand how limited church budgets can be. You might not have much money, but you can do more than you might believe. You just need some good ideas, energy, and creativity.

To get you started, we've put together some media, inviting, welcoming and discipling ideas that you can implement for minimal investment but maximum return.

Sponsor/Host An Event

- Sponsor an auto service day for single moms, offering free advice and car washes
- Print invitations for a special event (remember, start small and build on your success)
- Sponsor a booth at a fall festival, a local high school or junior high school's spring play program
- Sponsor special services to recognize community servants, such as police/firefighters/EMTs, and commemorate Labor Day
- Convert the money to rolls of quarters and offer to pay for people's laundry

Get The Word Out

- Design and place a flyer in the county newspaper
- Purchase door hangers to invite people to a special event in your church
- Buy "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." lawn posters for members to use at their homes
- Place a "Classifieds" ad from Igniting Ministry (see the Media Warehouse to choose your favorite and let it be a "spiritual land mine" in your newspaper)

More Ideas:

- Put together care packages for college students.
- Sponsor an auto service day for single moms, offering free advice and car washes.

Recognize Community Servants:

- Sponsor special services to recognize community servants such as police, firefighters, EMT's, and to commemorate Labor Day

Welcome The Newcomer; Remember Those Absent

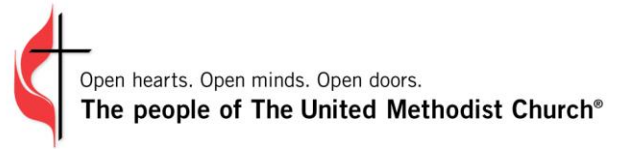
- Do a follow up for first time visitors: letter from pastor/phone call/gift basket
- Offer a Cliff's Notes /Christ's Notes - translator, dictionary, Lord's Prayer
- Prepare/purchase "Welcoming Baskets." When someone moves into the neighborhood take them a basket with: church bulletin, list of other churches in community, loaf of bread, box of salt to savor your live, candles to light your way, word of God Upper Room Disciple, plants, etc.
- Put together care packages for college students especially during mid-term and final exams.
- Buy small gifts to have on hand to give them at your Welcome Center
- Create a 'prayer wall' - dedicated area in sanctuary where persons can "post" a prayer - short, personal, to be left in place for others to read
- Invite members into the sanctuary; ask them to sit in their usual spot. Challenge them to make this area their personal mission field. They can watch for visitors and be intentional about knowing those around them.

More ...

Sponsor/Host An Event

- Sponsor free summer concerts on the lawn
- Sponsor a Friday night fish dinner during lent
- Print special "Invite a Friend" cards your congregation can use to invite their FRANs for a special "Friend Day" event - maybe during United Methodist Open House Month in September.
- Host a sermon series that would interest the community

RETHINK CHURCH



- Offer a special healing service, promoted by placing flyers and posters in hospitals, doctors' offices, etc.
- Sponsor an expert/speaker to address a topic of interest in your community and publicize it with flyers, door hangers, news releases, etc.
- Host a "Spring Kid's Day." Let children/youth participate in the worship service, (except the sermon).
- Purchase enough leader's guides and learner's guides to offer several *Beyond 30 Seconds* groups
- Buy a Planning Kit to share with other churches in your area through a district-wide training

More ...

Get The Word Out

- Rally your congregation around the denomination's promise of "Our hearts, our minds, our doors are always open":
 - make "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" the subtitle of our monthly church newsletter
 - Buy exterior banners with the "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." theme
 - Purchase "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." door mats for all your entrances
 - Get "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." bumper stickers for everyone in your congregation
 - Purchase and screen-print special gear for your outdoor Sunday ministers - vests, umbrellas, jackets, etc. - with "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors."
- Sponsor a cooperative advertising effort with other United Methodist Churches in your area during an Igniting Ministry advertising season (Lent, Back-to-School, or Advent). See Matching Grants at www.ignitingministry.org



RETHINK CHURCH



- Print up placemats for locally-owned restaurants to use
- Print special “Invite a Friend” cards your congregation can use to invite their FRANs for a special “Friend Day” event - maybe during United Methodist Open House Month in September.
- Buy church “business” cards (with your address, phone number, web address, and a map) to give to your members for their personal inviting ministries
- Design and print a welcoming brochure and purchase some literature holders for a Welcome Center
- Place a newspaper ad in your “Things to Do” or “Weekend” section just before Easter
- Do a direct mail campaign to promote a sermon series that would interest the community (United Methodist partnership with E-Zekiel: <http://www.umc.e-zekiel.com/templates/cusumcom/default.asp?id=24720>).
- Develop a web site for your church
- Print and place promotional flyers about your church in local offices - such as real estate agents, professional offices, and restaurants
- Domino’s Pizza box tops advertising (place church info on top of the pizza boxes when they are delivered)

Questions? Call toll-free 877/281-6535 ~ www.RethinkChurch.org