

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF MOHAWK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

How to Welcome a New Pastor

Congregations can help a new pastor get off to a strong start with these ideas to acclimate a new pastor and make that new pastor feel truly welcome.

Prepare to welcome your new pastor

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.
3. Invite church members individually to send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
4. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.
5. Plan for the transition. Occasionally important welcoming gestures are missed with everyone thinking someone else is handling these details.

6. Appoint a specific liaison person to whom the pastor can go for help and information during the transition.

Say goodbye to your current pastor in a healthy way

1. Show love, regard, and even grief, for your departing pastor. This is one of the best things you can do for the new pastor.
2. Acknowledge the change in public ways. Especially in the case of a much-beloved pastor, this allows the congregation better to let go and receive the new pastor.
3. Provide the congregation the opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to the outgoing pastor, even if things have not always gone well.
4. Find appropriate occasions—in worship and at other times—to thank the outgoing pastor.
5. Do not invite the former pastor to return for weddings, funerals, or baptisms.

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SUMMER

VBS



July 15-18

5:30-8:00 pm



MISSIONS UPDATES

Hancock County Food Pantry

Thanks for loading the tote and the cart in May. At the time I typed this, June was also off to a great start! We collected \$105 in May, and the Scrip table added an extra \$50, so we sent a check for \$155 in June.

July food items will be-

CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Thanks to all that help with the delivery of all the items collected.



Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes

We had satisfactory donations of hygiene items in May/June, but more will be needed before the packing party in November.

July/August collections will focus on school items. Since most children return to school at the end of July/first of August, there should be back-to-school sales starting in July. Some items to look for: Crayons, markers, colored pencils, note pads (ones that fit into a shoe

box), glue sticks (non-liquid), pencils, pencil cases and sharpeners, playdough, and stickers—just to name a few.

A packing party has been scheduled for Saturday, November 9—times will be announced as the date draws nearer.



Dear Pastor Woody and Ashley Schenck,

We were blessed to participate in your Sunday service. The children's sermon about Le(t) Go touched our hearts. Also, the fellowship time between services offered a wonderful time to connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We would be happy to return to share our ministry again.

Linda Sue Treptow for Redeem the Time Trio

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and the cards I received after my surgery.

I think I am doing well except for being a little impatient about the things I can't do yet.

Thank you again.

Love,

Elaine Cox



- 1 Ryan Cain
Aileen Lewis
- 2 Betsy Bandy
- 3 Kelly Beeker
- 5 Blake Thompson
- 7 Madison Hartzog
Willow Addison
- 10 Brody Cain
- 14 Tim Cain
- 15 Kennedy Mae Holliday
- 16 Kelly Paugh
- 18 Tammy Bearhope
- 19 Sherry Apple
- 22 Ava Westcott
- 23 Renee Street-Creed
- 25 Nell Mitten
- 30 Lillian Kissel
Josh Musselman



- 16 Caleb & Emily Paugh
- 19 Mike & Ashley Schenck
- 21 Gerald & Michele Phares
- 26 Greg & Melissa Cain

This allows your former pastor to engage fully with his or her new congregation, and it establishes your new pastor as everyone's pastor from the beginning.

Continue the welcome during the entry period

1. Take food over for the first few days. Many churches continue the practice of having a "pounding" for the new pastor when persons bring food items.
2. Provide a map with directions to local dry cleaners, grocery store, drug store, veterinarian, etc., and information on local options for internet and cable television providers.
3. Give gift certificates to several of your favorite restaurants in the community.
4. Give the pastor and family a welcome reception on the first Sunday.
5. Plan a worship celebration of the new appointment.
6. Invite the new pastor to any social events held by Sunday School classes or other groups in the early months.
7. Make sure the pastor's spouse and children, if applicable, are invited to Sunday School and other appropriate small groups.
8. Continue to remember your new pastor and family in your daily prayers.

Help the new pastor become familiar with the congregation

1. Introduce yourself to the pastor repeatedly! You have one name to learn; your pastor has many names to learn.
2. Wear name tags. Even if name tags are not a tradition, the congregation can wear them for a few weeks to help the pastor learn names.
3. Provide a current pictorial directory of all the church members, if available.
4. Provide an up-to-date list of all church committees and officers.
5. Provide the new pastor with a tour of where things are kept inside the church and perhaps a floor plan of the facilities.
6. Orient the new pastor to information systems and the way records are kept.
7. Make sure the pastor has a list of home bound or nursing home members, a list of those

struggling with long term illness, and a list of those still in grief over recent deaths in the family. Better yet, take the pastor for an introduction to each of these households.

8. Have an appropriate person offer to go with the pastor for introductions and support if there are particularly urgent pastoral situations (a member near death or the family of a member who has just died).
9. Have a lay official offer to take the pastor to meet church members in their businesses or other work settings, if they are easily accessible.
10. Offer to help arrange small group sessions to meet and talk with the congregation.
11. Create a "church yellow pages" (a list of people in the church who have specific skills that a newcomer may find beneficial...auto mechanic, doctor, dentist, dry cleaners, bookstore, office supply, etc.).

Help the new pastor connect to the community

1. Provide local media with information about the new pastor.
2. Provide a list of hospitals, nursing homes, and community service agencies.
3. Introduce your new pastor to other clergy in the community. Provide information on any ecumenical activities or associations.
4. Introduce the new pastor to public and community leaders.
5. Ask church members in civic clubs to take the new pastor to one of their meetings.

*Excerpts taken from "50 Ways to Welcome Your New Pastor"
by Robert Crossman*





Meet Our New Pastor

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

“Who are you?”

The woman at the booth asked me that when I went to get my registration information for Annual Conference. It's a really good question, and I have a hunch you are asking yourself that same question about me.

To answering that, let me invite you to church! Come to Mohawk UMC on July 7 and we can worship together. I will not be preaching until the following Sunday, July 14. My first sermon on July 14 will not be at all like my typical sermon, because I will be talking a lot about myself. That way, you can start to get better acquainted with me.

And I want to get acquainted with you, too!

Give me some time to meet you and put faces to the names I've been praying about. I have to learn all of your names and you only have to learn Lynne's and my names, so it will take me longer. But we will get to know one another, something that is very important to me. And as we grow in our relationship, I believe God will show us how we can move forward together in a Christ-filled future. Jesus has a plan and we're part of it!

So let me take this time to invite you on a faith journey with me. As traveling companions, we will get familiar with one another as we travel along the spiritual path God has laid out for us.

Will you meet me in worship this month? I hope to see you July 7 and especially July 14, because on July 14 we will also celebrate Holy Communion. That is a special uniting sacrament that binds all of us Christians and fuels us for the journey Christ calls us to. We will celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and the start of our faith journey together. I'm excited about sharing this spiritual journey with you, and look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.

His,
Pastor Kerry

P.S. A WORD OF THANKS

We want to thank all of you who went out of your way to make us feel so very welcome here in Mohawk. All the work renovating and cleaning the parsonage, the gift cards, the food and supplies, the Tuttle goodies, the signed poster, and the delicious hot meals were simply incredible. We feel so blessed to be here!

Kerry & Lynne O'Brien

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Vacation Bible School



July 15-18

5:30-8:00 pm