

GUEST WORSHIPPERS ARE COMING TO YOUR CHURCH!!

This Spring, 115 lay people from churches within our Shawnee Valley District will each be attending two of our 115 churches as guest worshippers. It is our desire as a District to help every church, both large and small, become better prepared for Sunday morning guests. We want every one of our churches to thrive and welcome people into the family of God.

Oftentimes, as regular attenders in our own local church, we forget what it must be like for a person to come as a “stranger” to our church and sometimes we fail to intentionally welcome a guest and follow up with them afterwards. We want to help each of our congregations to be reminded again how to be a welcoming and hospitable place. We never know what brings a person to the entrance of the church where we worship and it may be a critical time in their lives to demonstrate God’s love to them. We are reminded in Hebrews 13:2, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” What a difference it would make if we welcomed each person as we would welcome Christ himself and we saw the face of Jesus in their face.

Our goal in this endeavor is to provide honest, helpful and constructive feedback to our pastors (and in turn to the lay leaders of a local church) from a desire to make the church more fruitful in their hospitality. The District Superintendent will meet with every pastor one on one sometime during July through September to give them feedback.

This is not a secret, undercover operation or a way for the District to find out things about a specific congregation. Our only motivation is to come alongside each church as they anticipate guests. I hope this alone causes all of our congregations to roll out the red carpet for all who attend there. We are called to be on our best behavior every Sunday and to give our best effort to show hospitality to everyone. Please remember that every guest that comes to your church may not be guest worshippers sent from our District. We must be prepared and anticipate every Sunday that a guest may come and surely we can always improve our hospitality!