

Program Ideas for Intergenerational Collaboration

A group of 50 people representing 20 small rural congregations in Missouri, gathered for the day to discuss intergenerational ministry. These were the discussion starters that garnered quite a list of ideas:

What does your church already do, or could they do intergenerationally?

How can your church nurture relationships across the various ages in church and community?

Church service leadership by many ages

Have young people participate in worship, offering the invocation, reading scripture, greeting, etc.

Mix ages sitting together in church

Train Junior deacons

Spiritual mentoring between children, youth and adults

Church Together Kids move to a table in the sanctuary to be involved in the service

Strike up a conversation with someone new

Spiritual discussions (coffee and Jesus)

Invite people to come to speak about interesting topics after worship

Have visiting speakers to present about missions

Start an interfaith dialogue group

Support younger adults as they learn to teach children in Sunday School

Make church facilities available to other groups

Have a preschool in the building

Bring daily devotions to the preschool

Teach music

Community blood donation day

Provide transportation to church or other errands

Older adults read to preschoolers

Older women teach younger women, to teach their children

Music, community, preaching at assisted living community

Community meals

Support the youth ministry

Pass along cherished recipes

Quarterly activity built for children and adults

Post cards sent to all residents of town saying thank you and hello from the church

Start the fall youth program with a swim party

Young people help serve at chili supper

Have a pumpkin patch

Provide recreational opportunities in the church hall or gym (pickleball, corn hole etc.)
Christmas caroling to preschool and nursing homes
Live music jamboree with open mic
Holiday rummage sale
Co-ed softball league
Church bowling team

Once month Lunch Bunch
Day outings to eat and shop
Offer Vacation Bible School
Birthday cakes ministry to juvenile center and nursing homes
Pick up nuts sales orders
Hold a "We Love Our Town Day!"
Offer an Easter egg hunt for the community

Food bank
Create meal kits and deliver them with young and adults together
Angel tree at Christmas to shop with and for kids in community
Tailgate game nights with hotdogs etc.
Swim meet for all ages
VBS family night
Camping outing with family, friends and relatives

Trunk or Treat for Halloween
Pumpkin patch
New Year's Eve party at church
Ice cream social
Church dinners or picnics on a regular basis
Football team dinner
Reach out to nearby college
Rummage sale for the community
Holiday night celebration

Game nights
Scavenger hunt around the church with adults as guides
Bring the zoo to church for a creation care program
Fellowship night and talent show or with objects for conversation
Pack holiday meals and deliver them
Cooking classes
Hobby Night with table displays