

10 ways to celebrate seniors



- 1/ Throughout October, invite a different senior each Sunday to speak about the work they have done over the years and the skills they have learned. If appropriate, invite them to ask if anyone would like to learn one or more of those skills from them.
- 2/ During a service or other all-age gathering, ask people under the age of 60 to get in groups with people over 60. Ask them to talk to each other to find at least three things they both like to do or have in common. Have people volunteer to share their findings.
- 3/ Ask another children's gathering to think of the oldest person they know, then say who that is and what they like best about that person.
- 4/ Why do we need to have older people in our lives? Ask this question in an all-ages gathering and try to get responses from people under 13, teenagers, young adults and middle-aged adults. Responses could be pre-prepared. Based on those responses, express gratitude to older people and pray for them publicly.
- 5/ Get the seniors in your church together to discuss their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Try to include housebound seniors by asking about their needs before this meeting. Is there a way that they, and others in your church, can help to meet those needs? Is there a way you could help older people live the way they'd like to? This might mean calling for younger volunteers.
- 6/ Recognise seniors who volunteer or contribute in some way to the life of your church. Call them out, give them a gift and/or certificate of recognition, have people applaud their contribution.
- 7/ Contact the staff of a nearby aged care centre to see if you can offer to bring residents to a special service or luncheon for seniors. The centre might be happy to arrange transport. Provide a special meal, preferably served by younger people, plus entertainment and a Bible message. Encourage seniors from your church to attend as well. Give a small gift to each person to take home.
- 8/ Interview seniors, asking them how their relationship with God has changed over the years. What have they learned? What would they have done differently if they knew God better when they were younger? Video the interviews, allow the person being interviewed to request any changes or deletions, then show the videos in Sunday meetings.
- 9/ If you have a youth or children's group, ask the participants to think about how they could dedicate one of their weekly meetings to including, sharing with and entertaining seniors. Then have them send out invitations and carry through on their plan. Hopefully it will include refreshments!
- 10/ Hold a tech-free family morning or afternoon where seniors invite everyone to try the activities they enjoyed before the advent of computers. This could include marbles, bobs, jacks/knucklebones, elastics, long-rope skipping, backyard cricket, hopscotch, hookey or quoits, Donkey or Happy Families card games, Meccano building, or cat's cradle. Have some popular books from the 50s and 60s in a reading corner, and serve or sell favourite finger food from that era. Have one or more seniors lead and/or teach each activity.