

RSVP

INVITE



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

More **People**, More Like Christ

In the Great Commission, Jesus said to his disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

(Matt 28:19-20)

The way that we share the gospel with those who don't know Christ has been different during different times in history and also in different cultural contexts. In the post-modern, increasingly post-Christian, context of the Western world relying on the church to be so attractive that people will simply come to it, is something we can no longer depend on. Much of the time we also can't simply tell people Jesus is the way, the truth and the life because people are suspicious of truth claims. In a context like ours, building relationships and living out your faith with non-Christians as well as Christians is important. Here at First Presbyterian we encourage a PIE approach to evangelism:

P • Pay Attention

I • Involve Yourself

E • Enthusiastically Invite

When non-Christians or unchurched people no longer see the relevance of being part of the Christian faith community, extending invitations to them to go deeper becomes very important.

P = Pay Attention

In 1 Peter 3:15 we read, “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” Pay attention to God’s story, their story and your own story. Where has God brought transformation to your life? Ask yourself how God’s work in your life and in our world, witnessed to in Scripture, can encourage someone in their life.

I = Involve Yourself

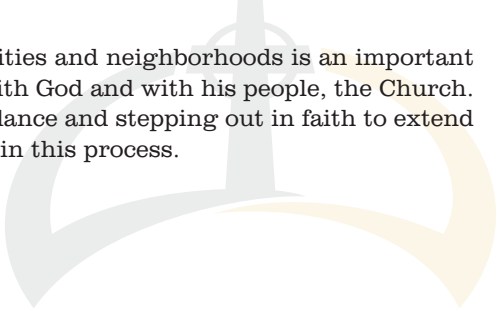
Are you intentionally involving yourself in the lives of others? Pray about it. Ask God if there is anywhere that he would like you to get involved. If you don’t get a clear response--don’t stress! You don’t have to be too spiritual about this. Consider what you naturally enjoy doing. What are the things that energize you? Do you like playing tennis or football? Do you like reading? Do you like gardening? Are there reading groups, gardeners clubs, tennis leagues in your area? Why not join one? Involve yourself... this is something even an introvert can do!

E = Enthusiastically Invite

Some people are far from God and the community of faith that is His church and some people are nearer. One way of getting people to go deeper is to invite them! As you get to know someone, you will get a sense that even if they may not be willing to go to church with you on Sunday, they may come along to a trivia night raising funds for a mission opportunity. Then perhaps they would be willing to help out with an event like “Stop Hunger Now,” where the church packs tens of thousands of meals for hungry people groups around the world.

They may be willing to come along on a mission trip to build a home for a family in Haiti. These experiences create opportunities to talk about why we as Christians serve others and to build friendships with other people in the church. Invitations can also be extended to come along to one of our community small groups or a Christmas or Sunday morning worship service.

Getting involved in our communities and neighborhoods is an important way of getting others involved with God and with his people, the Church. Trusting in the Holy Spirit’s guidance and stepping out in faith to extend an invitation to others is critical in this process.



Transformational Evangelism

This is a four session course that church small groups can study covering the 'What', 'Who', 'Why' and 'How' of evangelism.



Uncover: Luke's Gospel Pocket Book

This is a great resource for people with access to smartphones or tablet platforms. It is essentially Luke's gospel with a twist. Scattered throughout the text are QR codes. As you read the gospel questions may arise for the modern reader e.g. the relationship of science and miracles. If you have a QR code reader app on your phone / tablet, you then scan the QR code graphic for a short video clip of someone e.g. an Oxford University Astrophysicist, who shares his view as a Christian on the subject.



This is a resource that you can study with someone who is interested or something you can give to someone who is curious about Christianity. It then becomes a conversation starter for both of you.

Uncover: Small Group Seeker Study Guide

If your small group is one where you have some newer members who have questions about the Christian faith, this resource guides you through a six-week study that covers the basics of what it means to be a Christian.



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A congregation of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

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