

A Word of Welcome

Thank you for selecting the packet of materials that celebrates our identity as the United Church of Christ. It is our hope that this packet will help equip you and your congregation as you seek to tell the story of our church.

Inviting others into the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of the greatest gifts we can offer. While it is essential to base our invitation in faithfulness to Christ, it also is important to develop several skills so that we are effective in our invitation.

Our faith is not lived out in isolation from one another but, rather, our spiritual life is most authentically lived out when two or three are gathered together (and how much more wonderful if it is 20, 200 or 2000!). Therefore, the welcome you offer guests and newcomers to your congregation will have both a personal and corporate dimension. This tool kit can help you achieve a warm and engaging presence in both areas.

Consider the ideas presented here and adapt them to your particular situation. Share your successes and failures with us and with others in your conference. If we can be of help, let us know. It is through this dialogue that our whole church will learn from this effort so that we can be stronger in the future. Mostly, experience the joy of being a welcoming congregation.

Appreciate the gifts that currently abound within your membership and keep your eyes and ears and hearts open for new persons — and their gifts — who come into your midst.

So, welcome to this adventure in faith. Be prayerful. Be positive. Join us in sharing the good news of Christ’s Gospel as it is expressed in the United Church of Christ as, together, we witness the evidence that

God is still speaking,

Ron Buford
Acting Coordinator and Team Leader
The Stillspeaking Initiative (TSI)

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The Power of Invitation and Welcome

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