



**Spoon River District
Illinois Great Rivers Conference
The United Methodist Church**

®

Equipping and Connecting the Local Church to Make, Form, and Send Disciples of Jesus Christ

Rev. Sylvester Weatherall
District Superintendent
120 N. Kellogg St.
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-344-1435 phone
309-344-1161 fax
sweatherall@igrc.org

Friends,

October 5, 2016

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church and the community. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments — the spiritual well-being of His flock.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17).

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Don't your pastors and their families deserve this kind of recognition? Do something about it today!

2016 Pastor Appreciation Ideas

Clergy Care Retreats.

Nice Dinner - Provide a nice dinner or banquet in honor of your pastors and their spouses

Daily Gift for the Month - Each day one member delivers a gift to the pastor. Choose something of special interest to the pastor such as a bag of their favorite candy, fishing lure, tickets, etc. Something personal along with a handwritten note of appreciation would be greatly appreciated

Gift Baskets - Set out baskets for gifts and cards (consider a different month for each pastor!) or a large basket loaded with their favorite things.

3-day Getaway - Provide a two-night, three-day getaway for pastor & spouse to a special place.

New Software - Purchase new software that will really help your pastor. For instance:

- Logos Bible software
- Right now media
- Google Drive space
- Spotify Premium

New Equipment - Some examples include:

- Ipad
- Laptop
- Cell Phone

Date Night - Make arrangements to watch the kids so the pastor and spouse can go out for the evening.

Bonus - Give them a bonus and present it in church along with words of appreciation.

Financial planning consultant - Provide free sessions with a financial advisor who will help them budget, anticipate college education for children, and plan for retirement.

Library - Provide a favorite gift to add to the pastor's personal library, such as:

- Theological and biblical resources
- Leadership books
- Counseling resources

Continuing Education - Offer financial assistance to further the pastor's education.

Gifts for Pastor's Children - Present gift certificates for the children of pastors to their favorite store.

Fitbit - A great idea for helping your pastor maintain physical health by tracking anything from steps, heart rate, sleep, calories, and more.

Housecleaning - Go as a group or hire a professional to care for the house inside and out. Consider a house washing, vehicle detailing, lawn maintenance, window cleaning and more.

Invite the kids on an outing -The next time you are going somewhere fun with your family, invite the pastor's children along. They would appreciate this hospitality as much as their children.

Pay for a gym membership - Gym memberships might be out of the range of many pastors. The gift of a gym membership can lead to greater health, vitality, and community connection.

In the grip of the Carpenter,

Rev Sylvester Weatherall

Reverend Sylvester Weatherall