

Clergy Appreciation Ideas Toolkit

October is Clergy Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the faithful service of pastors and deacons. Here are some practical, meaningful, and fun ways congregations can show gratitude to their leaders.

Personal & Congregational Appreciation

- Notes of Gratitude: Invite members to write handwritten cards or share digital notes of thanks for their pastor(s) or deacon(s). You could provide a basket or bulletin board in the church.
- Surprise Video Messages: Collect short video clips of members, youth, or ministry teams expressing appreciation, then share during worship or on social media.
- Prayer Wall or Jar: Have members write prayers for their leaders and display them in worship, or create a 'prayer jar' as a gift.

Worship & Spiritual Care

- Special Blessing in Worship: Dedicate a Sunday in October to publicly thank and pray for your clergy.
- Gift of Rest: Arrange pulpit supply for a Sunday to give them a day off, or organize coverage so they can take a retreat day.
- Music Offering: A choir, Sunday school class, or youth group could sing a song of blessing.

Community Celebrations

- Fellowship Meal: Host a potluck, brunch, or coffee hour in honor of your clergy.
- Themed Sunday: Kids could dress up as 'Pastor' or 'Deacon' for fun and lead parts of worship (e.g., call to worship).
- Scrapbook or Photo Collage: Gather memories from the past year into a keepsake.

Practical & Thoughtful Gifts

- Gift Cards: To local restaurants, bookstores, or coffee shops.
- Day of Service: Organize volunteers to help with household chores, yard work, or church tasks.
- Continuing Ed or Retreat Fund: Take up a love offering to support their renewal and growth.



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