



community and celebration



MAY 2024

Introduction

Throughout 2023/24 we have been journeying through the President's theme of 'Take my yoke upon you' – giving attention to practicing means of grace together. As we enter the month of May we turn our focus to the practice of Community and Celebration.

The Psalmist writes,
'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it' (Psalm 118:24).

This is just one of many reasons why we as Christians are called to be a community of people who celebrate. It is good to celebrate; to join together in activity, conversation, laughter and excitement. Therefore, over the spring-summer months, together, as Church, we aspire to celebrate and rejoice as and with our communities.

To assist you, we have provided a list of ways in which you might choose to celebrate with your communities. Some of these activities are age-specific, whilst others could be adapted for any or all ages. Some are activities you could host in your home, some in your church, and some in other locations. If you are building a planning committee, think about how you can include children and young people in this process. Don't forget to send your stories of celebration to seek@irishmethodist.org.

Let's share the celebration. Let's share the joy.

Ideas for Celebration

- Community BBQ.
- Community meal.
- Community Fun Day – working with your local community centre and/or local churches.
- Tea Dance/line dancing.
- Decades dance/quiz.
- Pensioner's Lunch.
- Movie themed afternoon tea.
- A meal for your neighbours in your home.
- Pudding party at home: everyone brings their favourite dessert.
- Quiz and supper.
- Games/Board games night.
- Prayer walk & picnic.
- Forest walk & picnic.
- Toddler Disco - A fun birthday party style celebration - cake, balloons, games and fun, face paints, etc.
- Kids Praise and Party night.
- Encourage your young people to organise celebrations in their schools.
- Concert/music night – include praise bands, community choirs, local artists & enthusiasts.
- Baking/cooking night which finishes with you eating your creations.
- Reserve a section in your local coffee shop or restaurant and meet with neighbours.
- Community scavenger hunt ending with a celebration.
- Exhibition celebrating local artists – showcase paintings and sculptures, arrange poetry readings, performances from music and dance groups, incorporate a 'create your own art' corner.
- Food truck party.
- Street Party.

- Culture Night – What cultures are represented in your community? Why not organise an event which incorporates their food, traditions, dance and activities?
- Farmyard festival.
- Beach Day/trip.
- Have an early morning hike and watch the sunrise, or a late-night walk and watch the sunset.
- Pilgrimage – could be to another church/a place with walks and benches.

Ideas for preparations

- Create a planning committee which includes a variety of ages.
- Prayer walk around your community.
- Bunting - Colouring in decorations to hang up.
- Invitations to your neighbours/community.
- Chat with your local businesses and organisations about how to collaborate on a community event.

**With any event offering hospitality, be aware of food hygiene regulations. All people involved in producing/serving food should research and complete the necessary Food Hygiene Certificate. Unless provided by a professional caterer, all food served at a church/community event should be prepared and cooked on site. Please ensure the preparation and serving of food is included in your risk assessment.*



Living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

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