



**Holy  
Gossip!**

Sharing the Story of Jesus Christ &  
Pineville United Methodist Church

## **104 WAYS TO EVANGELIZE**

*Simple ways you can share with and  
show your faith to others*

*Jesus announced that he had come “not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28) and that he has set us an example, “that you also should do as I have done” (John 13:15). A disciple of Jesus is, first of all, a servant who sees God most clearly in the needs of others and reaches out to meet those needs. Service is the heartbeat of discipleship. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” says Jesus to the church today (John 20:21). Discipleship is being sent forth to serve with the gifts God gives for that purpose.*

*Disciples are sent forth into their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities at large. The possibilities of service are beyond counting in the ministry area of every congregation. What has this to do with evangelism? Doing acts of mercy is one of the ways we tell the Christian story. Being in ministry is an evangelical act; it testifies to the grace and love of God in action.*

From *Evangelism: Sharing the good news,* by Roger K Swanson, updated by Shirley F. Clement, published by the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church

1. Pray for people with whom you might share Christ. Trust God to provide opportunities to talk with them and the wisdom to know what to say.
2. Be mindful of those who serve you: bank tellers, grocery store clerks, fast food workers, etc. Look them in the eye and tell them you appreciate their service.
3. Take a bundle of flowers to your office and give one to each co-worker.
4. Know what you believe. Be able to explain it.
5. When you walk past a piece of trash on the ground, pick it up and throw it in a garbage can.
6. When a co-worker does something particularly well, acknowledge it.
7. Organize a picnic in the park and invite everyone on your block.
8. Listen attentively.
9. At the drive-through, pay for the meal of the person behind you.
10. Send an e-mail to your boss's boss, telling that person what a great job he or she is doing.
11. Answer and ask question of others about their faith, particularly if you know their faith is different from your own.

12. Plan an outdoor movie night: get a projector and show a family-friendly movie on your garage door. Invite the whole neighborhood.
13. Leave a note of encouragement on a co-worker's desk or on the windshield of his or her car.
14. Help someone struggling with heavy bags.
15. Stop and talk with a homeless person. Find out his or her story.
16. Speak to please God.
17. When someone says they're having a bad day, stop and ask if you can pray for him or her right there.
18. Put a dollar in the vending machine for the next person who comes along.
19. Before leaving a restaurant, jot a thank you note to your server (use the back of the check if you don't have paper) and leave it on the table, or call the manager over and explain how much you enjoyed the service.
20. Go out of your way to be friendly to a prickly person.
21. Read your Bible.
22. Contact the school nearest your home or office and offer to tutor a student who needs some extra help.
23. If you have a t-shirt from a Pineville UMC event, wear it often – and not just to other Pineville UMC events!
24. Start a book club in your neighborhood or at your office.
25. Bring a treat to work to share: cookies, banana bread, a box of doughnuts fresh fruit, etc.
26. Start a Bible study in your home and invite non-Christian friends to join the discussion.
27. Plan a game night with one or two families you'd like to know better.
28. Compliment a co-worker on an aspect of his or her character that you admire.
29. Invite friends to church events, even if they're not Sunday worship service events.
30. Leave a small, anonymous gift at a co-worker's desk.
31. Memorize short scriptures to use in conversation about life and faith.
32. Start a community garden.
33. Have a genuine love for others.
34. Rally several friends together and go door-to-door in your neighborhood, offering to wash people's cars.
35. Host a backyard barbeque or karaoke night. (Or both!)
36. Pay attention to the people around you in your neighborhood or at work. Send up a prayer for them as you pass.
37. With several friends, plan a fun-day in a local park for children and families in your community. Choose a theme, talk with the local park board and plan activities such as water balloon volleyball and three-legged races. Don't charge any money to attend or play.
38. Clean up the coffee station or refrigerator at your office voluntarily.
39. Write to the editor when the press misrepresents the Christian faith.

40. Rake leaves from your neighbor's yard.
41. Encourage your children to set up a lemonade stand in the summer or a hot chocolate stand in the winter for Christmas light viewers. Give away the drinks for free.
42. Volunteer. Find a cause to be passionate about and do something about it. (And this common cause might just open a door for you to share your faith with other volunteers!)
43. Be intentional by sprinkling references to your church life into ordinary conversations ("Someone at my church told me about this place with great deals on patio furniture." "I'd love to have dinner next week – I have choir practice on Wednesday, but I can do it any other night." Etc.)
44. Surprise one of your neighbors with a "holiday survival kit:" a roll of tape, a few bows and/or some ribbon, a festive "to do" list notepad, a box of hot chocolate mix and a candy cane.
45. If you're on Twitter, tweet about church experiences. Send a Tweet about the sermon if it moves you!
46. Refill the parking meter when you leave a spot.
47. Take coffee and snacks to early and late shift emergency room staff at your local hospital. Or order a pizza to be sent there anonymously when you're ordering one for your family's dinner.
48. Buy an extra book of stamps and leave it in the machine for the next person in line.
49. At the beginning of both semesters of the school year, purchase and drop off a bag of pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, crayons, scissors, glue or other supplies at a local school.
50. Do a "reverse trick-or-treat" on your street: take other families some candy a few days before Halloween.
51. Replace clothes that other shoppers have left on the floor under racks while shopping. And if the dressing room is messy, take a second to carry a few items that aren't yours to the return rack or back out to the sales floor.
52. Buy an extra mum or poinsettia and leave it on a neighbor's porch or a co-worker's desk.
53. Buy and send holiday cards (not just at Christmas) with Christian instead of secular messages.
54. Organize an old-fashioned caroling party in your neighborhood at Christmas.
55. Check your local high school's Web site for the athletics schedule and support one of the less-followed teams by going to a lacrosse or soccer match or a cross-country or swim meet.
56. Take your neighbor's trash cans to and from the curb on trash day. (Don't forget the recycling bin!)
57. Stop by a co-worker's desk and invite him or her to dinner.
58. If the table next to you at the mall food court still has "stuff" on it from the previous diner, clean it up when you take your own trash at the end of your meal.

59. Get some Outdoor Windex and clean the windows of the neighbors on either side of you when you clean your own.
60. Drop a plate of brownies or a quiche (or a full meal) or a case of soft drinks at your local fire or police station.
61. Have your home blessed during Advent or Lent and invite your neighbors to celebrate with you.
62. Pray before you eat in public.
63. Share extra vegetables from your garden or farmer's market trips with neighbors, friends and co-workers.
64. Have each member of your family choose someone outside the family who has made a positive difference in his or her life. Write short thank-you notes and mail the letters together.
65. Instead of exchanging gifts with your family or a group of friends, consider sponsoring gifts and food for a local family in need. Or explore programs such as Heifer International that allow you to give the gift of livestock; or sponsor cataract surgery, vaccinations, fresh water, mosquito nets, etc. for people in countries around the world. (This is a good office project, too!)
66. Give blood.
67. Start a Bible study in your home and invite non-Christian friends to join the discussion.
68. Leave flowers or a home-baked treat for your mail carrier and/or newspaper deliverer.
69. Don't leave your shopping cart in your parking space or on the median in the parking lot – return it to designated areas.
70. Record yourself (and/or your children) reading your favorite Bible story or passage (be sure to give the chapter and verse!). Deliver the tape or CD to a local hospital, children's hospital or nursing home (include a Bible with the recording if you can).
71. If you have more flowers in your garden than you can enjoy in your home, cut and arrange them in inexpensive vases and deliver them to your local emergency room or nursing home. Or share them with your local "meals on wheels" organization to divide and share with its clients.
72. When you stop by Starbucks on your way to work or church, buy an extra coffee with which to surprise someone at your destination. Do the same when you take a water or soft drink break during the day.
73. As you purchase canned and dry goods for your family, purchase extras of these items to share during Pineville UMC's "Food Pantry Sunday."
74. Donate a Christian book to the library.
75. Buy a ticket for the person in line behind you at the movies.
76. For one week, act on every single thought of generosity that arises spontaneously in your heart and notice what happens as a consequence.
77. When drivers try to merge into your lane, let them in with a wave and a smile.
78. Thank your parents, either in a written note or verbally.

79. Slip a \$20 bill to someone you know who's having financial difficulty.
80. Call or write to someone you haven't spoken to in a long time, just to say you're thinking about them.
81. Note that you're a Christian on your Facebook and/or MySpace page(s).
82. When you're waiting for service at the deli counter, trade "ticket numbers" with someone in a hurry.
83. Offer to babysit for free to give a single parent (or new parents) an evening off.
84. Call someone who has no family nearby and invite him or her to your home for a visit.
85. Give your place in line to someone who's obviously in a hurry or to a parent with restless little children.
86. Next time you finish your punch card for a free cup of coffee (or hose, or video rentals, etc.), ask the cashier to give it to someone who might need it.
87. If you have airline miles that you can't/won't use, see if you can cash them in to purchase subscriptions to Christian magazines for a local nursing home or hospital.
88. Go to your local post office in mid-December and pick one of the letters to Santa collected there. Purchase and send the gift(s) for Christmas delivery.
89. Smile at a stranger.
90. Send a card of thanks with a blessing "from a local citizen" to the officers at your local police or fire station.
91. Bypass the parking space up front for one farther back and save the close one for someone who needs a break.
92. Buy a bouquet and a dozen helium balloons. Attach a short note of encouragement and blessing (include your favorite Bible verse). Deliver it anonymously to your local hospital and ask the nurses to give it to whoever needs it most.
93. Go out of your way to befriend a co-worker you don't get along with.
94. Call the "1-800" number on the back of a truck and tell them the driver is doing a great job.
95. Register as an organ or bone marrow donor.
96. The next time you spend some time reading at a coffee shop, read the Bible or an inspirational/spiritual book. Write in the front cover, "Please read, enjoy and share" and leave it at the shop.
97. Open the door for someone else.
98. Stop for a pedestrian to cross the street.
99. Wear a cross or the Methodist cross and flame symbol as a lapel pin or necklace.
100. Dispense enough paper towels in a public restroom for the person behind you.
101. The next time someone admires something of yours, if you can afford to give it them, do so.

102. Donate food to the local animal shelter to help care for some of God's creatures.
103. Compliment a stranger on his or her clothing or demeanor – and mean it!
104. Keep an extra umbrella in your car and give it to the next person you see stuck in a downpour.

***IMPORTANT:  
DON'T FORGET TO THANK GOD  
FOR THE INSPIRATION AND OPPORTUNITY  
TO EVANGELIZE EACH TIME YOU DO IT!***