



West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church

Community BBQ and Worship on the Lawn

Friday, June 8, 2018 ❖ 5:30 pm

Year by year, the annual conference family descends on Buckhannon interrupting, the community's traffic, restaurant availability, and overloads the hotels. West Virginia Wesleyan College and the Buckhannon/Upshur County community shares its space and works with us. With this year's conference theme, *Innovative*, the Conference Program committee and Worship Team looked for a way to share our thanks and hospitality with those who serve us so well and to model an emerging style of worship – dinner church. This evening's gathering is an opportunity to break bread with sisters and brothers of the community and the college, to offer our hospitality, to share in fellowship, to relax, and to listen as Dr. Junius Dotson offers words of grace to us.

We hope this will spark some ideas of ways you can share in ministry and worship with your community.

The Ice Cream Social will follow. (This is a fund raiser for our Conference Council on Youth Ministry's Youth Service Fund.)

We offer our thanks to the Discover Team for leading us in this time.

NOTES:

Discover Team:

Chip Bennett
Micah Blanks
Eva Faulkner
Janet Harman
Erin Sears
Amy Shanholtzer
Claudia Thomas
Joe Webb

Speaker:

Dr. Junius Dotson

Musicians:

Craig Hinchman Trio (and More)
Ed Pauley, guitar
Rusty Joins, bass guitar
Craig Hinchman, guitar
Martha Craig-Hinchman, piano
Gary Nelson, drums

Want to create an awesome outreach/worship event for your community?



Outreach events like our Friday Night Community BBQ can be easily replicated in your community! It might seem daunting to plan this at your church, but it doesn't need to be! If you want to do this but have no idea where to begin, this resource is a gift to you!

Just remember to tailor your event to your own community's context. Here are some questions & thoughts to get your creative juices flowing for your own innovative event. Activities like these can be powerful first steps toward building relationships with people as we fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

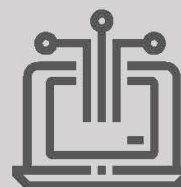
1 What are some reasons your church might host an event like this?

- Being a good neighbor by thanking the community.
- Intentionally forming new relationships
- Christian hospitality as modeled in scripture. (Genesis 18: 1-9; Acts 2; Luke 14)
- Reaching beyond church walls



3 What could your event feature?

- Music
- Food
- Games/Activities
- Child-Specific Activities
- Engage community resources (healthcare, etc.)
- Worship



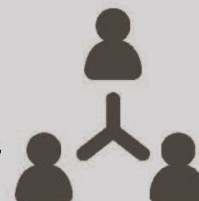
2 What are some details to consider?

- Location
- Local ordinances/permits
- Security
- Parking/traffic
- Seating
- Food prep/service
- Childcare / Safe Sanctuaries
- Who will act as hosts/guides?
- Sound/Tech/Media
- Leftover food
- Your audience



4 What are some next steps you will take to build relationships?

- Ask participants to register with their contact information for a gift/giveaway.
- Send thank you messages and add participants to church mailing and/or email list?
- Use social media to continue to engage participants of the event. (#stayintouch)
- Remember to invite your new friends to your next shindig.
- Evaluate your event to see what you could improve.



For more information or ideas contact:

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Evangelism Team chair, Ed Corbitt at corbittej@comcast.net