

How to Appreciate Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Some congregations choose a particular Sunday to honor their pastor in worship, and that would be a great idea. But there might be lots of other ideas about how you could show your spiritual shepherd that you appreciate the time, energy, effort, study, prayer, and everything else that he or she is giving to this task. We thought it might be helpful to have a few ideas; this list is by no means exhaustive and we're sure that you could find other ideas as well.

- If your pastor is a coffee drinker, perhaps a gift card at Starbucks would be nice to have.
- Does your pastor have a favorite restaurant? You could treat them to a nice meal there.
- Cards and notes are always welcomed.
- If your pastor has young children, perhaps you could arrange/volunteer babysitting for a night so that your pastor could enjoy a night out with the spouse.
- Think of what a good "Date Night" would be for you and your spouse and give that to them instead.
- You may have tickets to a UT Game that you cannot attend, perhaps your pastor would like to go.
- Maybe the arts are more on their radar—how about the symphony, a ballet, a concert, or a play?
- You could always give them a hug at the end of a service and tell them you are grateful for their ministry among your congregation.
- Do they have a favorite food? A surprise dessert would be thoughtful.
- It's going to be October—why not bake them a pumpkin pie or pumpkin rolls?
- Pastors are insatiable readers—a gift card to Amazon or Barnes and Noble would be welcomed.
- You might invite the pastor and family for dinner or an evening of games.
- Pastor's spouses should not be overlooked—is there something that you could do or give to them as well?
- You might take a calendar and have different people sign up for different days in the month; let them decide what they might do on their day that would be special.
- Does your pastor have a hobby? Is there something that would make it more enjoyable for her?
- While the focus might be the pastor, perhaps you could also think of some way to express your thanks to the other church staff.
- If you have a vacation house, perhaps you could offer your pastor a time and place for a retreat.
- Children could make cards to present to the pastor during the Children's Time.
- The Youth Group could offer to rake the lawn at the pastor's house.
- How about a spa day? Pastor's sometimes have a hard time taking time and care for themselves.
- How about all the other great things that you, your session, your personnel committee, or groups in your church might dream up?