

Publication of the First UMC newsletter, *First News*, is on hold until further notice.

Please keep up to date with church activities on our website, www.fumconline.org and in our Sunday worship bulletins.



Firstnews

SUNDAY MORNINGS ARE A STRESSFUL time for pastors, but most people who love their church and love their pastor are willing to do what they can to help make the Sunday morning experience as great as it can be. Here are 7 simple things people can do to support the pastor on Sunday mornings.

Pray. Pray for your pastor. Ask God to open the ears of the people, to guide your pastor's heart and to bless the services with His Spirit.

Don't critique. Sunday morning is not the best time to bring complaints. It is very distracting when the pastor is about to speak to hear criticism that will have to be dealt with later. It weighs very heavy on the mind and gets in the way of focusing on the message. Hold those until Monday, but even then, ask yourself if sharing it is personal to you or genuinely helpful to the entire body.

Don't share something you want your pastor to remember. Most likely the pastor will forget what you said by the time Sunday is done. Email or call him or her Monday morning. If it must be shared on Sunday, please write it down so he or she can remember the details. His or her mind is so clouded on Sunday thinking about a million different things. And, he or she tries hard to make the focus about a message God will use.

Be Kingdom-minded. Think of others interests even ahead of your own. Keep in mind the temperature in the room may not be your ideal temperature, but it may be exactly the right temperature for someone else. A song you like may not be sung today, but it could be the song that leads another to the throne of grace. The message may not address what you're dealing with right now, but for someone else, it might be life changing. Be a part of the crowd that says, "I love what helps

another," and you'll help your pastor and the church greatly on Sunday mornings.

Volunteer. The work of the church can't function with only a few people. There's never a church that has too many people volunteering in pre-school ministry, too many greeters, or too many people willing to do whatever it takes.

Introduce him to visitors. The pastor loves to meet visitors, especially those seeking a church home. It is comforting when the church is bringing people with them or meeting new visitors as they arrive.

Pray. It really does begin and end with prayer. More than anything, he or she wants your prayer support. The Spirit of God seems to respond when you do.

*Excerpted from MinistryMatters.com.
Read more: www.ministrymatters.com/
Thanks to Peggy Blackburn for bringing this to our attention.*