



Senior Adult Day PLANNING GUIDE

The Church: the Body of Christ

by TERRY C. TERRY



When the 2022 SBC Calendar of Activities dates were set for 2022, each month was given a different emphasis to encourage churches to “celebrate the work of each and every member throughout the year,” noted Jonathan Howe, vice president of communications with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. So any Sunday may be the right Sunday to:

- express appreciation to senior adults for their service in the kingdom of God and their work in the church.
- observe how senior adults use their spiritual gifts.
- make other age groups aware of the blessings of senior adults.
- praise God for the contributions of senior adults.

PLANNING FOR SENIOR ADULT DAY

The following guidelines and program can be modified whenever you plan to celebrate Senior Adult Day.

1. Planning originates from the senior adult council, coordinator, staff person, or planning committee.
2. Subcommittees are appointed to deal with attendance, worship, choir, ministry activities, food, transportation, and publicity.
3. Activities are scheduled.

SENIOR ADULT WEEK

- **Ministry:** Select activities such as visiting residents at nursing homes or taking meals to those who are homebound.
- **Fellowship Meal:** Provide a potluck lunch after church and ask a senior adult to give thanks for the food. After lunch, have two or three senior adults line up to give their testimonies, read Scripture, or share the words from a favorite hymn.

- **Special Programs:** Enlist speakers and guests.
- **Senior Adult Retreat:** Provide a time of reflection, fellowship, and fun.
- **Special Emphases:** Feature one each day of the week leading up to Senior Adult Sunday.

As you plan the best time to celebrate Senior Adult Sunday, look back at your church through the eyes of your senior adults:

- Share your church’s journey: When was it established? How has it grown through the years? Has it struggled through decline? Has it had times of rejuvenation?
- Where is it now compared to the past?
- Who were the pastors and significant teachers who impacted the senior adults?
- Through what events has God showed His love for the church? How has He kept you from the storm or restored you stronger after the storm? Recall special revivals when many were saved.
- Recall times your church ministered to the community in a special way, such as during a tragedy or threatening weather.
- How have the senior adults served as teachers, deacons, librarians, choir members, or committee members?
- How has your church ministered to senior adults throughout the years?

Plan to interview senior adults before Senior Adult Sunday so there can be input from a lot of people. Don’t forget to reach out to those who are in nursing homes or who are homebound.

After the stories are collected, find the best way to share them. Use a few during the service. Use some before, during, or after the special meal. As the stories are told, take time to focus on God’s faithfulness and give Him the highest honor. ☪

TERRY C. TERRY is a LifeWay Worship retiree who, with his wife, loves grandparenting Ethan — every day!

SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

“The Church’s One Foundation”

(Hymn 346 from Organ Edition, with last stanza harmonization)

Choral Call to Worship

“We Look Behind at All You’ve Done” (Hymn 97)

Prayer

Piano Offertory

“I Will Serve Thee” / “Make Me a Servant”

(Modulate from hymn 377 to hymn 381, using a D7 chord to make the transition.)

Recognition of Senior Adults

(Each hymn can be sung by a senior adult as a solo.)

“The Longer I Serve Him”

(Hymn 374, segue, no break)

“Make Me a Channel of Blessing”

(Hymn 375, segue, no break)

“Glorious Is Thy Name, Most Holy”

(Hymn 376, using the last stanza reharmonization for hymn 386)

Choral Worship

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

(Hymn 371, modulating to last stanza harmonization)

Message: The Church

Emphasize your church and how it is a foundation for future generations to honor God.

Invitation

“The Servant Song” (Hymn 384)

Announcements

Benediction

Choral Response

“Let It Be Said of Us” (Hymn 597)

Organ Postlude

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King” (Hymn 302 from Organ Edition)

Hymns are from the *Baptist Hymnal*, 2008.