

2025
Edition



The Pastor's Planner

The Pastor's Planner

Introduction to the 2025 Edition

Ever start your week with great ideas about how it will go, only to reach the end of the week feeling unaccomplished and still unprepared for Sunday? We've all been there!

Research has shown time and time again that, as humans, our attention is drawn to time-sensitive tasks over tasks that are less urgent, even when the less urgent offer greater rewards.

This psychological quirk explains why we're so bad at task and time management. It's why you keep hearing, *don't let the urgent* (busy work) *keep you from the important* (long-term goals/vision). This simple guide can help prevent the "urgency trap."

There's one page for each week of the year, beginning on the first Sunday in January, with plenty of space for you to focus on what matters. It also offers insights about what's coming in your church and encouragement to help you get there. By Looking Ahead you can be more intentional, and by Looking Back, you make sure you incorporate experience and wisdom into those aspirations. You'll learn a little but plan a lot.

You'll find a rundown of each section to the right. ►

Each page of The Pastor's Planner is similar, but you'll notice timely advice matched to the season of ministry in your church with resources to help you overcome any common "pain points." Print the entire packet or just the relevant page.

Either way, 15-30 minutes of focus each week can really help you focus on what's most important in your ministry.



Look Back

- **Next Steps:** Note what follow-up, if any, is required to make sure nothing falls through the cracks from last week's efforts.
- **Key Takeway:** This is a simple place for you to reflect on last week and capture a lesson learned.

Look Forward

- **Crucial Outcomes:** When you get to the end of the week, what results do you want to celebrate? Outcomes aren't tasks; they are achievements.
- **Action Items:** Jot down a few key tasks for the week, making sure they are connected to the desired outcomes.
- **People:** Remember, ministry is about people so ask God to bring key relationships to mind.
- **Church Fuel Resources:** Done-for-you member resources to help you get done what needs to get done so you can focus on ministry – they're only a click away!
- **Think About This:** This short challenge is time-sensitive. It's meant to let you know what's coming and give you something important to work on.
- **Inspiration of the Week:** Think and meditate on this verse, quote, or prayer point as you move throughout your week.

WEEK OF
JANUARY 5
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Happy New Year!
Epiphany



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

1

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Then the Lord said to me, 'Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.'" —Habakkuk 2:2

Church Fuel Resources



[New Beginning Kit](#)



[Run to Win Kit](#)

Think About This ▼

It's the New Year, time to get yourself together so you can lead your church in unity. If you want to get people on the same page, create an *actual* page—start with the [Two-Page Plan](#). In it, you decide who you are, what you do, and then prioritize how to get there.

Church Fuel offers a variety of tools to help you focus, plan and become more *intentional* this year:

- [Personal Growth Plan](#)
- [Annual Review](#)
- [Ministry Action Plan](#)

This week, focus on welcoming people who started coming during the Christmas season with a "Start the New Year Right" sermon series. Church Fuel has two options: [New Beginning](#) and [Run to Win](#).

WEEK OF
JANUARY 12
2025

The Pastor's Planner

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"The difference between a good leader and a great leader is one who learns to anticipate rather than react." —Craig Groeschel

Church Fuel Resources



[Grow Your Church
2025 Workshop](#)



[Annual Visitor Calendar](#)

Think About This ▼

Every week, plan your week with purpose. Write it down: your priorities, your action items, and your goals. When you go into each week with a plan, you'll see communication with your team improve and become more accountable for how your time is spent.

For help mapping out your week, use our [Annual Visitor Calendar](#), your church's visitor focus for each month of the year, print it off, post it somewhere . . . be intentional to use it.

If you need help, attend a [Grow Your Church Workshop](#) this month. We'll show you the month-by-month church growth plan that we recommend for the year!

Or, if you just can't do it on your own, join [Church Fuel's Grow Program](#) and we'll do it for you, customized to your church's specific needs and vision.

WEEK OF
JANUARY 19
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Email



Inspiration of the Week

"When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability." —Proverbs 28:2

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Church Fuel Resources



[January Social Media Guide](#)



[Grow Your Church 2025 Workshop](#)

Think About This

Tomorrow offices, schools, and organizations across America will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As we reflect on his influence on the country and the Church, we'll leave you with one of his most relevant quotes for church leaders:

"There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

This week, try using your church's Social Media platform to connect with your community. Check out Church Fuel's [January Social Media Guide](#) for ideas and inspiration.

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." —James 1:5

Pray for your church to reach more people than ever before!

Church Fuel Resources



[Grow Your Church 2025 Workshop](#)



[Weekly Member Call](#)

Think About This ▼

You should be nearly finished with planning out your church's 2025 Growth Plan. If you're still struggling and Church Fuel's Grow Program isn't a fit, you can still benefit from Church Fuel [membership](#) and our [insanely practical resources](#).

We know that every single Pastor has a genuine desire for their church to get more visitors. We want to help. If you're serious about reaching more people, [our scholarship program](#) gives you a next step that will work for your budget and unique situation.

You can also get insights from other church leaders by joining our [Church Fuel Facebook Group](#). If you're struggling with something, you can bet someone else has struggled too, and will offer timely and practical advice for how to overcome it.

Let's learn from, and grow with, each other.

WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 2
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Black History Month



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." —Benjamin Franklin, 1790

Church Fuel Resources

 [Grow Next Steps](#)

 [Annual Visitor Calendar](#)

 [February Social Media Guide](#)

Think About This

It's been quoted so many times we forget who first penned this thought:

*"If you fail to plan,
you are planning to fail."*

Benjamin Franklin was the first recorded author back in 1790, and that wisdom is just as pertinent today as back then. It's why we encourage you to focus so heavily in the beginning of the year on planning your church's annual happenings.

For inspiration, follow the ideas we lay out in the [Annual Visitor Calendar](#). We've got you covered!

WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 9
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Super Bowl Sunday (USA) ✂️
10 weeks until Easter 🖱️

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Begin with the end in mind." —Ryan Wakefield

Church Fuel Resources



[Connections Systems Launch](#)



[Easter Guide](#)



[Easter Planning Checklist](#)

Think About This ▼

Easter Sunday has been called the church's Super Bowl (this Sunday is the football one!). It's a big day in the life of most churches, and it needs a ton of preparation. Typically, there are more visitors to reach and follow-up with later, as well as unique service details to plan. So, although Easter is still 10 weeks away, you should be headlong into preparation and planning.

The key is beginning with the end in mind and Church Fuel's [Easter Kit Guide](#) is a great place to start. And our [Easter Prep Checklist](#) will help with the details.

Our [Connections Systems Launch](#) this week will help you get plans in place to follow-up with all the visitors you're sure to see this Easter and provide them with opportunities to connect!

WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 16
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Valentine's Day ✂️
President's Day (USA) 🖱️

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"We love because he first loved us." —1 John 4:19

Church Fuel Resources



[February Social Media Guide](#)



[Easter Guide](#)

Think About This ▼

We've just celebrated Valentine's Day so it's hard not to think about love. World culture thinks of love one way, but in the church, we know that kind of "love" isn't lasting. Jesus' love is—unconditional, everlasting!

You have the opportunity to share that truth loud and proud during this Valentine's month. As you prep your messaging and continue planning for Easter, be sure to spend time delighting in Jesus' love.

Delight in the Word. See Jesus live, relate, teach and demonstrate how to live. And see Jesus delight in you! He will reveal the encouragement he wants you to share with your congregation and community.

This week, show people that you see them, that you care. More than that, show them Jesus sees them, loves them, and delights in them!

The Pastor's Planner

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Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose."
—Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

Pray for people in your church to be passionate about personal evangelism.

Church Fuel Resources



[21 Days of Hope](#)



[Witness Kit](#)



[March Social Media Guide](#)

Think About This ▼

In ministry, and life, a personal invitation really does make a difference! Stop for a moment to think about one you received that literally changed your life—a coffee date that led to a lifelong friend, a dance hook up that became a 50-year marriage, an invite to church that led you to Christ.

The single most effective strategy that improves attendance at churches is a personal invitation. Deep down, people want to matter, feel special, and more than just a number or face in the crowd. Extending a personal invitation to an event will do just that.

This week, focus on training your congregation in personal evangelism to get them ready for Easter! Utilize the [Witness Kit](#) or implement our [21 Days of Hope](#) personal evangelism initiative.

WEEK OF
MARCH 2
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Women's History Month ✂
Lent Begins—Ash Wednesday

▶ Look Back

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People

Meet

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for God's divine favor to open doors for you to preach the gospel.

Church Fuel Resources



[Social Ads Strategy and Plan](#)



Look at the Easter Calendars in the Church Fuel [Easter Kit](#)

Think About This ▼

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday this week. While things are busy with Easter Planning, remember this is also a time for you to stay devoted to your purpose.

Practice spiritual disciplines to experience a more intimate relationship with God during this busy season. Consider this advice from an Episcopal bishop, William Arthur Ward ("Fast From, Feast On"):

*Fast from criticism,
and feast on praise.*

*Fast from self-pity,
and feast on joy.*

*Fast from ill-temper,
and feast on peace.*

*Fast from resentment,
and feast on contentment.*

*Fast from jealousy,
and feast on love.*

*Fast from pride,
and feast on humility.*

*Fast from selfishness,
and feast on service.*

*Fast from fear,
and feast on faith.*

WEEK OF
MARCH 9
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Daylight Savings Time Begins



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Action Items for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week

"90% perfect and shared with the world is better than 100% perfect and stuck in your head." —Jon Acuff

"Don't get stuck in perfectionism—just publish the ad. Every move you make is not make-or-break. God can still use imperfect action." —Chris Abbott

Church Fuel Resources



[Easter Kit](#)



[Follow-Up Course and Materials](#)

Think About This

Easter is enough of a challenge, don't add to it by trying to reinvent the wheel. Instead, focus on your ministry and leadership.

It's time for you to put your Easter plans into action and make sure your [follow-up system](#) is dialed in so that you can connect with new visitors. But you're not starting from scratch—you'll find everything you need inside this [Easter Kit](#)—from artwork, graphics and videos to scripts, planning tools and templates. And our Easter Ads Lab will walk you through everything you need to get those ads up and running. To get access to all our Easter kits apply for a [Church Fuel scholarship](#).

We've done all the planning and designing for you, and we're providing free training and printable resources to help your team nail hospitality and follow-up too. This year can be the best Easter yet! Just get going!

WEEK OF
MARCH 16
2025

The Pastor's Planner

St. Patrick's Day ✂️
5 Weeks Until Easter 🖱️

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

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Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Invite your church to pray for open hearts and open doors this Easter.

Church Fuel Resources



[5 Weeks Before Easter Calendar](#)



[Plan Your Visit](#)



[Complete Connections Diagnostic and Blueprint](#)

Think About This ▼

Through the shamrocks, Irish stew and everything green surrounding you this week, think about how you can connect with all those folks and draw them into your Easter services/events.

Did you know, the average American spends 48 minutes planning for the following day, with men spending more time than women (52 minutes vs. 44 minutes). Google has made it so quick and easy to look things up, people don't even head out for a quick St. Paddy's day adventure without first planning where they'd like to go. So make it equally easy for them to find your church when they're searching for Easter activities this year.

This week you should be working on your website's [Easter landing page](#) and making sure your [Plan Your Visit](#) is set up and ready for action.

WEEK OF
MARCH 23
2025

The Pastor's Planner

4 Weeks Until Easter



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." —Proverbs 16:3

"May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed." —Psalm 20:4

Church Fuel Resources



[Mother's Day Kits](#)



[Follow Up Materials](#)



[21 Days of Hope](#)

Think About This ▼

When you're planning a major event, always consider, *"What is the next connection point for our new guests?"* and then work backwards from there.

When you're planning for Easter, the next logical connection point is Mother's Day. Did you know that churches in the U.S. typically have more visitors on Mother's Day than Christmas? So, your Easter planning should start on Mother's Day and work backwards. Time to start planning your [Mother's Day](#) event.

It's also time to begin working on your follow-up plan to ensure no one falls through the cracks after Easter and Mother's Day.

Continue nurturing an environment of invitation by inviting your church to pray for new visitors in the upcoming weeks and begin promoting the [21 Days of Hope](#), if you're planning to use it.

WEEK OF
MARCH 30
2025

The Pastor's Planner

3 Weeks Until Easter



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Church Fuel Resources



[Journey](#)
(New Believers) Kit



[The Fight Kit](#)

Think About This ▼

This week is a great time to finalize your After Easter sermon series and your new believer's follow-up.

Easter can also be a great time to kick off a new series, instead of it being the culmination of multiple weeks or even a stand alone weekend. It creates natural buy-in with a cliffhanger to get everyone coming back for the next week (week 2).

[The Fight](#) and [Journey \(New Believers\)](#) kits will help!

WEEK OF
APRIL 6
2025

The Pastor's Planner

2 Weeks Until Easter



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." —Colossians 3:23-24

Church Fuel Resources



[April Social Media Guide](#)



[Example Easter Landing Page](#)

Think About This ▼



The big day is just two weeks away! This week, determine your Easter service announcements, making sure to include something to bring back the visitors – a new sermon series, Mother's day happenings, some cliffhanger that will make them want to come back.

To finish out your Easter preparations, check your [Plan Your Visit system](#), update your [Connect Cards](#) and determine your Easter photo booth plan. These [best of the best example connect cards](#) will help. And these [Easter Photo Booth ideas](#) will inspire your team to create something extra special this year!

It's also a great time to text your church members and ask them to pray for and invite their neighbors, friends and family to Easter happenings. Support those invites with a Facebook live event promoting your Easter activities.

WEEK OF
APRIL 13
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Palm Sunday 
Easter is next Sunday! 

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed." —Isaiah 53:5

Pray that everything we do in the coming Holy Week is inspired by God.

Church Fuel Resources



[Easter Photo Booth](#)



[Easter Communications Scripts](#)



[Messaging Scripts for Easter Facebook Ad Campaign](#)

Think About This ▼

Sometimes it feels like the week before Easter is just a blur because of all the prep that still needs to happen. Take a moment to send out a prayer or devotional to encourage your people to pause and focus on the journey Jesus took to the cross. It's important that *"you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds"* (Proverbs 27:23). A little encouragement goes a long way.

This week starts your "All Court Press" to Easter, beginning with prayer. Text your church again to pray and invite; and gather your team to pray for all things Easter at your church. An Easter dress rehearsal will help work out any kinks.

Finally, increase your Facebook ad spend.

Watch what the Lord will do with all those preparations!

WEEK OF
APRIL 20
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Easter!!! ✂️

3 Weeks Until Mother's Day

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for rest for your church leaders and volunteers.

Church Fuel Resources



[Creating a Welcoming Environment for Your Guests](#)



[Follow-Up Fuel](#)

Think About This ▼


This week is Easter Sunday! You made it. Relax. It's here, and guess what? It's OK if the technology malfunctions or the head usher is sick. God isn't upset with you. If Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection are preached at your church this Easter, it's a good Sunday. It's a good Sunday indeed because the Lord is risen indeed (Luke 24:34)! What you need to do today is rest in that truth.

Take some time this week to thank your volunteers and celebrate the successes you experienced. You can plan this ahead of time to be automatically done so you, too, can rest.

It's also a good week to check your [follow-up system](#) and invite all those Easter visitors to the new series next week.

WEEK OF
APRIL 27
2025

The Pastor's Planner

National Day of Prayer is May 1 
2 Weeks Until Mother's Day

Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Ministry flows out of relationships, and relationships take time." —Ryan Wakefield

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." —Romans 15:13

Church Fuel Resources



[May Social Media Guide](#)



[Mother's Day Photo Booth ideas](#)

Think About This ▼

This year's theme for National Day of Prayer is *Pour Out to the God of Hope and be Filled*. NDP has great significance for us, helping us remember and teach that our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It's a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Let's keep the Easter momentum going by connecting with the new people who attended your service. Start 5 conversations with people whose contact information you got at Easter! Invite them to your sermon series, highlight different ministries or talk about next steps—new believer's class, welcome party, small group, baptism—whatever works in your church.

Make sure your [Mother's Day landing page](#) is live!

WEEK OF
MAY 4
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Military Appreciation Month ✂️
Mother's Day next Sunday! 🖱️

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

Meet

Phone

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Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for God to continue working in your community and open hearts to invitations.

Church Fuel Resources



[Selfie School Playbook](#)



[Mothers Day Email and Text Invite Scripts](#)

Think About This ▼

Mother's Day is actually the 2nd most attended Sunday of the year (Easter is 1st, Christmas is 3rd). Your church can use this as a critical outreach opportunity!

Invite your church to pray and invite family, friends and neighbors. These [email and text invite scripts](#) will get you started. Support those congregation invites by increasing your social ad spend with Facebook video invites. This [Selfie School Playbook](#) teaches you how and these [ad scripts](#) will give you ideas.

Consider a Facebook Live promoting Mother's Day; send folks to your [Mother's Day Landing Page](#) for more information. Grow churches, let the Church Fuel Google Ads team know what you're doing so they can start running ads.

Finally, text an invite to your full contact list to let them know what's happening on Mother's Day!

WEEK OF
MAY 11
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Mother's Day



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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People

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Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for fresh wisdom, vision, and direction for this upcoming season!

Church Fuel Resources



[Father's Day Kit](#)



[Father's Day Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼

As you welcome all the guests you're sure to greet on Mother's Day, think about how you can build relationships with them – how do you help them know the Lord and make sure they are compelled to come back?

Answer and act on those questions and from a growth strategy perspective, you'll be on the right track.

Planning with the end in mind, remember that Father's Day is just 5 weeks away! Wait, Father's Day isn't known to attract a lot of people to church – that's reserved for Mother's Day isn't it? When you think about it, no one exhibits or demonstrates Fatherly love more than God Himself – so shouldn't His church be the place where fathers are celebrated better than anywhere else?

Our [Father's Day Kit](#) has all the resources you need.

WEEK OF
MAY 18
2025

The Pastor's Planner

4 Weeks Until Father's Day



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week

Pray for God to open doors to people in need in your community so your church can pray and be Jesus' hands and feet to those in need.

"The battle is won in prayer." —Pastor Scotty Gibbons

Church Fuel Resources



[Father's Day Kit](#)



[Prayer Ad Fuel](#)

Think About This

Over the course of the year, your church will flow between Momentum seasons (like Mother's Day with heavy attendance), and Ministry seasons (like the summer) when it's wise to invest in ministry. The planting of seeds in the ministry seasons will result in harvest during momentum seasons. You set the stage in the ministry seasons for what you hope to do in the momentum seasons.

This week, think about setting up a Prayer Ad campaign with a goal of sending 100 audio prayers. Watch as you become known as the church that prays! Don't have any goal other than to pray for people in your community. Church Fuel's [Prayer Ad Fuel](#) can help. You're planting seeds that God will harvest in due time.

Also time to create and promote your [Father's Day Landing page](#).

WEEK OF
MAY 25
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Memorial Day 
3 Weeks Until Father's Day

Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

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Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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Email



Inspiration of the Week

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
—John 15:13

"Ceremonies are important. But our gratitude has to be more than visits to the troops and once a year Memorial Day Ceremonies. We honor the dead best by treating the living well." —Jennifer M. Granholm

Church Fuel Resources



[June Social Media Guide](#)



[Father's Day Kit](#)

Think About This

Tomorrow is Memorial Day when we honor those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces, an annual reminder of the brave men and women who served our country and gave their lives for our freedom. It's not just a day off; it's a time to think about why we remember these heroes and a chance to honor those who are no longer here.

Try one of these sentiments as you reach out in your churches:

- I'm thinking of your family this weekend.
- Remember those who have fallen.
- I'm grateful for the freedoms we hold and for those who sacrificed.

At Church Fuel, we hope your Memorial Day is meaningful. We wish you an enjoyable weekend where you remember those who are no longer with us.

WEEK OF
JUNE 1
2025

The Pastor's Planner

D-Day 
2 Weeks Until Father's Day

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." —Proverbs 23:24

Church Fuel Resources



[Father's Day Ad Copy Scripts](#)



[Selfie School Playbook](#)



[Father's Day Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼



This week we remember D-Day, the Battle of Normandy and the beginning of the end of World War II. Beginning with the Normandy beaches, the Allies pushed back against Axis forces until Germany was forced to surrender less than a year later. May we honor their heroism, which liberated a continent and saved the world.

The lessons we glean from these heroes apply to our spiritual walks today. Persistence, especially when things look bleak. Perseverance, for the victory may not be won quickly. God is still in control, even when the enemy appears to be winning.

How can you acknowledge the hardworking, servant-hearted fathers in your church and those who fill important fatherly discipleship roles for people in the church? And what about those who may be hurting on Father's Day?

WEEK OF
JUNE 8
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Flag Day 
Father's Day Next Sunday! 

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church." —Ephesians 5:23

Church Fuel Resources



[Example Father's Day Landing Page](#)



[Father's Day Sermon Outlines](#)



[Father's Day Ad Copy Invite Scripts](#)

Think About This ▼

Father's Day is next Sunday, so this week encourage your congregation to pray and invite family, friends and neighbors to your Father's Day events/services and be sure to highlight why someone who doesn't normally come to church would want to attend! Can you say B-A-C-O-N?

Barna Research Group recently did a study with Christian men to get their assessment of "manhood" in today's world. 44% said manhood was threatened rather than hopeful; confused rather than vibrant (47%); in crisis rather than stable (40%). The men in your congregation probably feel no different.

Men deserve better. We need men engaged as fathers, husbands, and church members. God wants men to be clear about who he's calling them to be. Commit to teach them to grow in their faith and character.

WEEK OF
JUNE 15
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Father's Day ✂️
Juneteenth 🖐️

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." –Genesis 1:26-27

Pray for eyes to see what your community needs as we go into summer.

Church Fuel Resources



[Juneteenth – What Churches Need to Know](#)



[Summer Slump Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼

June 19th, also known as Juneteenth, is the date that hundreds of thousands of slaves were freed in Texas. Taking place three full years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Juneteenth is largely regarded as the longest-observed African American holiday. Juneteenth is highly important, not as a political day, but as a day to pause as all of humanity, and remember. As humans, we must ask ourselves what the ideals of Juneteenth mean practically.

As a Christ-follower, what compels us forward in understanding those who have different life experiences?

If you're looking for practical action steps, one great way to start is by supporting Black Owned businesses in your community. Second, be intentional with speaking up and out against racism in your spheres of influence. Finally? Be educated. This [Juneteenth interview](#) is a start.

WEEK OF
JUNE 22
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." —John 15:5

"And he walks with me and he talks with me; And he tells me I am his own; And the joy we share as we tarry there; None other has ever known." —Merle Haggard, *He Walks With Me*

Church Fuel Resources



[Leading One Person](#)



[Team Training Guide](#)

Think About This ▼

If you're frustrated by your human weaknesses, consider this: that weakness you hate may be meant to lift your heart towards God. Jesus constantly oriented himself to his Father through Scripture and prayer. We should do likewise. When Jesus told us, "Without me you can do nothing," he knew that without the Father, he could accomplish nothing.

Good pastors will take time to seek God before action. They say:

- "I don't know. We'll have to pray."
- "Before we decide, what does the Bible say?"
- "Jesus said to ask anything in order that we might bear fruit, so let's all ask."

For all its frustrations, accepting our humanity is a relief. It is in our humanity that *"he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own."*

WEEK OF
JUNE 29
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." —Luke 14:23

Church Fuel Resources



[July Social Media Guide](#)



[Summer Slump Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼

There is a belief in church circles that we just can't compete for people's attention during summer months – the beach, lake, family vacations, weekend getaways, new boat, summer house, or even a perfect summer day are pretty tempting options when people wake up on Sunday mornings. The Summer Slump is almost a foregone conclusion in most churches.

At Church Fuel, we say, NO MORE!!! Summer can also be an amazing opportunity for community outreach. People are looking for something to do. Why not invite them to a fun event that's family-friendly and introduces them to your church?

Punch the Summer Slump in the face and grow your church instead. Our [Summer Slump Playbook](#) gives you all you need to create a curiosity hook that makes your church the more compelling option!

WEEK OF
JULY 6
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Canada Day (July 1)

Happy July 4th (Independence Day) USA



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for your team to stay encouraged and that your people would stay engaged with their faith and the community.

Church Fuel Resources



[Visitor's Diagnostic](#)



[Visitor Blueprint](#)

Think About This ▼

Summer is a perfect time to focus on the systems that help you make a difference in your community. Pick a system you need to create or refresh – do you need to attract more visitors or better welcome those who do attend? Do you have the right people in place – leadership and volunteers? Church Fuel has resources available to help.

This week, we encourage you to focus on your visitor system. New visitors are a proven path to growing your church. Using the ministry-first marketing strategies in our [Visitor System](#), we'll help you create a system for inviting that works week after week.

Once your system is in place, it will keep happening organically so you can focus on getting those visitors plugged into the life of your church.

WEEK OF
JULY 13
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"You don't rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your systems."
—James Clear

Church Fuel Resources



[Leadership Diagnostic](#)



[Leadership Blueprint](#)

Think About This ▼

As you focus on growth this summer and continue assessing the systems that help you run your church, this week we encourage you to focus on developing your team and your vision.

Leadership isn't about positions or titles; it's about understanding who you are as a church and passing that vision and purpose on to every member, staff, and volunteer. Our [Leadership System](#) will help you not only grow as a leader but also find and build better leaders in your church.

Start by taking the [leadership system diagnostic](#) – it will pinpoint specific areas you need to build or improve, including yourself! *"Everyone wins when the leader gets better."* –Craig Groschel

If you've got typical summer events happening this month – VBS, summer camps – be sure to promote them. Say "NO" to the Summer Slump.

WEEK OF
JULY 20
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

—Hebrews 10:24-25

"Everyone yearns to feel known, noticed, and loved." —Tyler Smith

Church Fuel Resources



[Welcome Party](#)



[Guest Follow Up Fuel](#)



[Connections System](#)

Think About This ▼

This week's focus is all about connections and how to get your church truly connected – to God and to each other; real, *meaningful* connections with members and guests. This is a perfect time to work on your [Guest Follow Up system](#) so you're ready for Fall.

From small groups to ministry programs, a church serves people by helping them connect to God and to others. But that can be a challenge. You need a system to help people make new connections and maintain relationships they've previously formed.

Our [Connections System](#) has everything you need to get everyone plugged into the life of your church, from first-time visitors to attendees; from new believers to disciples. Start with your Connections Assessment and develop your Connections Blueprint. Everything else flows from there.

WEEK OF
JULY 27
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Parent's Day 

Look Back

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart."
—Elizabeth Andrew

Church Fuel Resources



[August Social Media Guide](#)



[Volunteers System](#)

Think About This ▼

All of us know that volunteers are the lifeblood of a church – every church needs volunteers. But it's not just a warm body you need, it's the right people in the right place at the right time. How's your church doing with that? If it needs a little work, now is the perfect time to focus on your [Volunteer System](#).

Your church will only be as healthy as your volunteers are healthy. A growing church must learn to not only recruit new volunteers but also care for the ones they have. One tool we have to help you is [How to Build a Healthy Volunteer Team](#)!

While you're planning that system, plan to get your next set of good photos at any upcoming events to showcase volunteers in action!!

WEEK OF
AUGUST 3
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for God to send you highly capable leaders and volunteers.

Church Fuel Resources



[Back to School Playbook](#)



[101 Outreach Ideas](#)

Think About This ▼

This month is a perfect time to set the stage for a new beginning and shape the direction of the coming season. Focus this week on gearing up for folks to get back into their routines. Are you ready to encourage and welcome new visitors?

Need ideas? Host a Sunday kickoff event and use that as a launching pad to invite people back to your fall series. Plan this for 2-3 weeks after school starts.

For more ideas, check out our [Back to School Playbook](#), the Ultimate Step-By-Step guide to reach more first-time visitors than ever before and take advantage of the natural momentum that comes with the beginning of the school year.

While you're at it, be sure to refresh your [connect cards](#) and your system for [collecting contact information](#).

WEEK OF
AUGUST 10
2025

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"If you try to grow your church, you won't grow your church." —Chris Abbott

Church Fuel Resources



[Grow Your Church Fall Outreach Workshop](#)



[Annual Visitor Calendar](#)

Think About This ▼

Now that the year is half over, it may be time to revisit your 2025 church plan to see if it's still relevant, if you're on target and if it will serve you for the rest of the year. Ask your team:

- Are we capitalizing on contact information from our visitors?
- Do we have a visitor system? Does everyone know it?

You may need a reset.

Consider this: If you try to grow your church, you won't grow your church. Huh? Seriously, instead focus on the fruit (ministry) and chase the one – God will take care of the growth.

If you need help, attend a [Grow Your Church Fall Outreach Workshop](#) this month. We'll show you the month-by-month church growth plan that we recommend for the rest of the year!

WEEK OF
AUGUST 17
2025

The Pastor's Planner

National Senior Citizens Day 
(August 21)

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them." —Galatians 6:6

"Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the Lord." —Leviticus 19:32

Church Fuel Resources



[Back to School Playbook](#)



[101 Outreach Ideas](#)

Think About This ▼

Here's a growth accelerator idea to implement this week: *Fill the Fridge*. Contact your local elementary school and ask the principal if you can show your appreciation for all of the teachers by coming into the Teacher's Lounge once a month and filling the fridge with drinks, sodas, energy drinks, etc.

You can even have people in your church bake some cookies or cupcakes, or you can buy some snack cakes and leave them in there as well.

Then, every time you do it, leave a sign or letter saying, "Hey, we filled the fridge, thank you for everything you do."

Ask the senior citizens in your congregation to help, and recognize their service on National Senior Citizens Day this week!

Such a simple thing but such a huge impact!

WEEK OF
AUGUST 24
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The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed." —Psalm 20:4

"Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." —Proverbs 16:3

Church Fuel Resources



[Two Page Plan™](#)



[Leading One Person](#)

Think About This ▼

Your Two Page Plan™ is a document that hones in on your church's vision and makes a plan to get there. It's the first thing we recommend all churches do, no matter the size, when they become a Church Fuel member. The [Two Page Plan™](#) becomes the central place from where all other ministries flow. It identifies, clarifies, and documents:


- Purpose
- Mission
- Values
- Distinctives
- Target Audience
- 90-Day Focus
- Annual Goals
- Three-Year Outlook

Use in your Staff meetings. Share with Key leaders. Continually refine and adjust as your "do" ministry.

Still struggling with your 2025 church plan? Schedule a no-obligation [Church Growth Strategy Call](#) and the Church Fuel team can help you figure out your church's unique vision/needs and how best to grow your church to the next level.

WEEK OF
AUGUST 31
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Labor Day 

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Today's accomplishments were yesterday's impossibilities." —Robert Schuller

Church Fuel Resources



[September Social Media Guide](#)



[Fall Festival Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼

One often forgotten action that can contribute to church growth is participating in partnerships— not only with other churches, but also with community organizations, schools, etc.

How can your church help? How can you let the frequently underfunded nonprofits and schools in your area know that you're there for them?


Consider a campaign to fill backpacks with school supplies or send a representative to engage in meetings about community concerns.

It's amazing how many relationships you can form and potentially connect to your church just by having an intentional presence in your community.

Also, take time to honor the advancements, freedoms and prosperity we experience thanks to the contributions of U.S. workers past and present this Labor Day week.

WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 7
2025

The Pastor's Planner

National Grandparents Day 
Sept 11 Observances, First Responder's Day

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"In one single moment life may never be the same. As you live and enjoy the breaths you take today and tonight before you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted." —Unknown

Church Fuel Resources



[101 Outreach Ideas](#)



[Outreach Ideas for Church Growth](#)

Think About This ▼

September should be a momentum season, so gear up by changing your mindset: *Dream big. Pray bigger. Start small.*

The small step this week is to focus on your community – ask your team: “What is our community’s cultural draw/challenge as we head into the Fall season?” Then, figure out how your church might address it.

Are you in a huge football town? Consider hosting a tailgate party before the big game. Have there been a rash of teenage suicides or other tragedies? Could your church offer space for support group gatherings? Are families looking for safe, fun things to do with their small children? Offer a Fall Fest with no strings attached.

Point is, be relevant to your community.

And take some time this week to remember 9/11.

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." —Galatians 6:9

Church Fuel Resources



[Follow Up Fuel](#)



[8 Ways to Get People to Stay at Your Church](#)

Think About This ▼

If you're getting visitors every single week but few of them come back, it's probably because your follow-up system needs to be tweaked – or you need to automate one to make sure it actually happens. Most churches fail miserably when it comes to following up with new visitors after their first visit.

Follow-up is by far the MOST critical component. Make sure no one falls through the cracks no matter where they fall in the process.

And, always remember – Follow Up Never Ends! Stay in contact with your core to make sure they're where they should be and enjoy their involvement in your church. For help, check out Church Fuel's [Follow Up Notes](#).

Don't give up on guests – they *will* respond if you hang in there.

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"To move people from just visiting once or twice to getting plugged into the church, you need apply this simple principle: help your guests make a friend. That's it. You will cover 90% of the connections process with that guiding principle." —Nathan Teegarden

Church Fuel Resources



[Connections System](#)



[Guest Follow Up](#)

[Example Texts & Emails](#)



[Selfie School Playbook](#)

Think About This ▼

This week's growth accelerator is Monday Morning Selfie Calls.

Every Monday morning take the connect cards from your Sunday guests and create a custom selfie video making sure to use their names and thanking them for visiting the day before, then invite them back to church this coming Sunday.

If you end the video with a question like, "Can you make it?" or, "Will you be there?" then you will have a ton of people respond. Be sure you respond back and get a conversation going!

Text them the video – they'll be blown away by the personal touch and you'll be shocked at how many people come back to church.

Church Fuel's [Connections System](#) is packed full of insanely practical resources to help entice visitors to come back.

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week

"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." —Mark 9:37

Church Fuel Resources



[October Social Media Guide](#)



[Welcome Party Playbook](#)



[Welcome Party Outline](#)

Think About This

As we close this month welcoming more visitors, it's time to ask, have you thrown a Welcome Party yet to get them plugged in? We recommend you host a Welcome Party every 3-4 weeks, so no one needs to wait long to feel embraced and connected to your church.

The Welcome Party is intended to bridge the gap between people attending your church and connecting in a small group or serve team, or both. Oftentimes people hesitate to commit to relationships in the church because attending a service and going to a small group/serving are very different. The Welcome Party helps people take the next step closer to meeting people who will help them connect in those relationship-driven ministries.

Church Fuel's [Welcome Party Playbook](#) and [Outline](#) are chock full of help.

WEEK OF
OCTOBER 5
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Christmas planning should begin!



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Key Takeaway from Last Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"There are people on the other side of your faithfulness! Pray and persevere."
—Ryan Wakefield

Pray for perseverance and faithfulness as you get ready for the weeks ahead.

Church Fuel Resources



[Christmas Kits –
New Resource Launch
in October](#)



[Christmas Resources](#)

Think About This ▼

October can be busy – hosting a Fall Harvest Party to recapture the 'Ween from the culture around you. But it's also a time to start Christmas planning.

Already? Yes, if you want to make this the most meaningful Christmas – drawing your church closer to Jesus and reaching those in your community who do not know him – you should start *now*.

Church Fuel is here to help. With many [Christmas resources](#) available, we also launch our new Christmas resource every October to give you plenty of time to gear up and adapt it to fit your unique vision and mission.

Add some fuel to the fire – ask your team: *"Can we adopt a model where prayer is our main focus and our team could pray for our community every day this season?"*

WEEK OF
OCTOBER 12
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Columbus Day ✂️
Indigenous People Day 🖐️

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."
—Romans 12:8

Church Fuel Resources



[101 Outreach Ideas](#)



[Plan Your Visit Playbook](#)



[Plan Your Visit Fuel](#)

Think About This ▼

If you're looking for ways to reach out to your community and support, engage, or encourage them this season, try these fall outreach ideas:

- Write thank you notes to teachers
- Host a football tailgate
- Have a family photo day
- Back to school food/supplies drive
- Family movie night
- Volunteer for the concessions for local school sports
- Create a community garden, pantry, or pumpkin patch
- Tutor local students
- Provide meals for local sports teams or parent groups
- Prepare a community Thanksgiving meal

And with all those events coming up, it's a good time to check on your [Plan Your Visit](#) system – is it operating well or does it need an upgrade? Do you even have one in place?

The Pastor's Planner



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers."
—Proverbs 11:14

Church Fuel Resources



[The Senior Pastor's Guide to Breaking Barriers](#)



[Leadership System](#)

Think About This ▼

Moving forward, especially during tough times, requires a growth mindset.

Harvard Business Review puts it this way: *"Individuals who believe their talents can be developed (through hard work, good strategies, and input from others) have a growth mindset."*

For church leaders, it might look like this: the leaders who have a growth mindset (instead of a "stuck" or "fixed" mindset) don't use circumstances, limits, or a shifting culture as an excuse not to lead, grow, or try new things. They look inward first, examining their own character and circle of influence, and focus on the resources they have. Then they adapt to lead in a way that overcomes external challenges.

To read more about how to have a growth mindset, see our eBook, [The Senior Pastor's Guide to Breaking Barriers](#).

WEEK OF
OCTOBER 26
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Halloween ✂️
All Saints Day 🖱️

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray that every visitor would feel known, noticed and loved in every interaction with your church, and that they would find a place and get connected to your community.

Church Fuel Resources

 [Guest Experience Course](#)

 [WOW Hospitality](#)

Think About This ▼

This week's growth accelerator is the Red Cup Idea.

Consider implementing a Red Cup as part of your guest experience. It's a great way to identify new guests and make sure that they get swept off their feet.

If you have a coffee bar or coffee shop in your lobby, all you have to do is offer new visitors a free drink.

Whenever a new visitor turns in a free drink card or asks for their free drink, just make sure to put it in a red cup, instead of whatever cup you would normally put it in. Now, you'll be able to look around the church and spot all of the new guests.

Then train your staff and volunteers to talk to everyone with a red cup on Sunday!

The Pastor's Planner

Election Day 

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

Pray for people in your church to be passionate about personal evangelism and to develop a love to invite.

Church Fuel Resources



[November Social Media Guide](#)



[19 Ways to Encourage Your Church to Invite](#)



[How Do I Get My Congregation To Invite?](#)

Think About This ▼

The number one most overlooked secret to church growth is simply this: A system of invitation! Your Sunday attendance is a direct reflection of the amount of invites you made that week.

Surveys show that fully 82% of people say they would likely attend church if invited by a friend.

Teaching your church to invite is one of the most important things you can do as a pastor. It's one of those keystone habits, and it affects nearly everything else in the church. When your members invite others, good things happen.

So, invest in what is going to help your church grow—a system of invitation!

Church Fuel has a ton of insanely practical resources to help you create a [culture of invitation](#) in your church.

WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 9
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Daylight Savings Time ends



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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Church Fuel Resources



[Christmas Ads Playbook](#)



[Plan Your Visit Playbook](#)



[Plan Your Visit System](#)

Think About This ▼

There's a fine line between letting the culture rule your church and utilizing ideas from popular culture to connect with your church. The best leaders can learn from anyone.

And wherever you look—whether it's to the latest viral TikTok video or the TV show that people in your congregation can't stop talking about—you're likely to find some truth, help, and ideas.

Which parts of culture are your people really into right now? What can you learn from it? If it's unhealthy, what can you gather about why it appeals to them and how you can guide them in the right direction? If it's healthy, how can you apply it to help them connect with God and Scripture?

We are to be in, not of, the world – let's help shape it!

WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 16
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Veteran's Day



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

1

2

3

People

Meet

Phone

Text

Email



Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

—2 Timothy 2:15

"Leaders are formed, not found." —Michael Lukaszewski

Church Fuel Resources



[Leadership Course](#)



[Leadership Diagnostic](#)



[Leadership Blueprint](#)

Think About This ▼

Leadership isn't about positions or titles; it's about understanding who you are as a church and passing that vision and purpose on to every member, staff, and volunteer.

If there's drama, conflict, or issues to solve, they usually revolve around a "what"—what someone said or didn't say, what topic the sermon should be on, what type of outreach to do for the upcoming holiday.

But developing people—the "who" of your church—matters more than the "what."

Why?

People are more important than programs and projects.

Start with who is driving the bus. Do you have the right people in the right seats? If not, are you working to help your people get into the right seats?

Church Fuel's [Leadership System](#) will help you grow, and find and build better leaders.

WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 23
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Thanksgiving



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."
—2 Corinthians 9:10

Church Fuel Resources



[Written Thank You Prompts for Churches](#)



[Thank You Cards](#)

Think About This ▼

With Thanksgiving approaching, talk of thankfulness and gratefulness is all around. But practicing gratitude is more than just another platitude – studies have shown that regularly practicing gratitude eases symptoms of anxiety and depression and helps people feel more positive emotions, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

It's also important to be thankful for the good things God is doing in both your church and your community. There are surely a lot of things that need work, but God has been good and will keep being good.

How can you develop a gratitude practice this week and beyond?

What are the church's biggest needs to help you reach people in this season? Write them down and pray for them consistently.

WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 30
2025

The Pastor's Planner

4 Weeks until Christmas!



Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

Action Items for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week

"When you're planning an event, you need to plan with the people who are far from God in mind and why they should care." —Ryan Wakefield

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house." —Matthew 5:14-15

Church Fuel Resources



[14 Days of Light](#)



[New Beginning Kit](#)



[The Fight Sermon Series Kit](#)

Think About This

This week, plan for how you'll activate your people to invite family, friends & neighbors to church this holiday season.

Be sure to encourage and equip your people to invite. Try a "digital mission trip" like Church Fuel's 14 Days of Light Christmas Experience! God will bring light *to* and light *through* them as they reach out.

The goal is to help your congregants experience God's love in some way each day. It will stretch and grow their faith to new levels while helping others see the difference God can make in their lives.

And it will have a *huge* impact in your community as you all work together. Make this the best Christmas EVER!

Also, start planning your comeback series for January, like [New Beginning](#) or [The Fight](#).

The Pastor's Planner

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



Look Back

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." —Hebrews 10:36

Pray for God's divine favor to open doors for you to preach the gospel.

Church Fuel Resources



[Guest Follow Up Survey](#)



[Guest Follow Up Example Text and Email](#)



[5 Scenes that Matter to Every Guest](#)

Think About This ▼

Make this season meaningful and intentional both in how you reach people and your follow up.

Are you wondering why people attend your church—some for months or years—but don't get connected (serve, give, join a small group, etc.)? You should ask them!

- Whether through personal conversations or a church-wide survey, give people space to share their honest feedback.
- What is holding them back from getting connected?
- How many are unclear what their next steps should be?
- Why are people visiting once or twice and not coming back?
- Why are people coming to a service, but not connecting with others?

WEEK OF
DECEMBER 14
2025

The Pastor's Planner

Christmas is almost 2 weeks away!



▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."
—Ephesians 4:11-12

Church Fuel Resources



[Church Fuel Resource Library](#)



[Ultimate Christmas Kit](#)

Think About This ▼

As you continue your Christmas prep, ask your team, "Do we point people to Jesus as the reason for the season? Are we making Christmas meaningful?"

When you're planning an event, especially Christmas, plan with the people who are far from God in mind – and figure out WHY they should care when you invite them to church. Ask, "Do we have Christmas services that meet the needs of someone who doesn't know Jesus?"

Also finalize your Christmas follow-up plan. How will you engage the visitors you get at Christmas – how do you get them to come back?

Church Fuel has many "done for you" resources in our [Resource Library](#) so you can focus your time on the ministry at hand and the things that are unique to your church and community.

The Pastor's Planner

Christmas 

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." —John 1:14

Church Fuel Resources



[Avoid the Next Week Crash](#)



[I Almost Walked Away from Ministry on Christmas Eve](#)

Think About This ▼

This week take some "me time" to reflect on what Christmas means to you, personally. Through all the hustle and bustle, take time to celebrate the season just for you and your family in whatever way will create lasting and cherished memories.

Christmas celebrations and year-end are an ideal time to reflect on the impact Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection had on all of humanity.

The baby born to Mary became the Jesus Christ that we now follow and worship as King.

With the new year approaching, we can stand in awe of how this baby, Jesus Christ the Lord, breathed new birth into God's people throughout history. He gave you and countless others new life through His sacrifice.

The Lamb of God is worthy of praise this week and all our days!

The Pastor's Planner

New Year's 

▶ Look Back

Key Takeaway from Last Week

Next Steps

▶ Look Forward

Most Important Outcomes for This Week

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Inspiration of the Week ▼

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
—Isaiah 40:31

Pray for renewed energy and inspiration to lead your church in the New Year.

Church Fuel Resources



[January Social Media Guide](#)



[Year-End Checklist](#)



[Year-End Review Template](#)

Think About This ▼

It's the end of the year, and many things will be fighting for your time and attention. Instead of focusing on all the tasks you need to do, determine which 2-3 outcomes you want to experience and focus on them.

The last week of the year is a great time to reflect on everything God has done in your church over the last year and prayerfully think about next year.

Write down wins and think about next steps. Capture lessons learned. Look at the numbers and compare them to plans and expectations. Our [year-end review template](#) can help. Find it in the [Resource Library](#).