

Worship Manners Matter

What kind of church guest are you? What is appropriate behavior when you enter a church as a visitor or guest? What do we here at SPLC expect of our visitors/guests? Here's what I do when I visit another church:

- I arrive 10 minutes before the Service begins.
- After entering the worship space, I find a seat and prepare for worship by practicing the lost art of silence. I believe other people in the Sanctuary want to do the same thing. I do not wish to interrupt them, or be interrupted by them, with chatter. There is time for conversation after the Service. (Find prayers for before Worship in our hymnal on page 72.)
- I look over the bulletin and the hymnal (especially if it is different from what I'm used to).
- "When in Rome, I do as the Romans." I sit, stand, sing, commune, share the peace, etc., as directed. I use the hymnal and participate in Worship. I am not there as a spectator, neutral observer, or under protest.
- I give an offering to support the ministry of the congregation I am visiting. We are all in ministry together - - just in different places.
- After the Service, I greet my fellow worshippers, sign the guest book, go to fellowship time, and expect to be spoken to. It is awkward when I am ignored. (Some insist theirs is a "friendly" or "welcoming" congregation, but talk only to their friends.)
- I review my experience and give thanks that the Church, Christ's body, is alive in many and various ways and places. I also give thanks for the congregation where I spend most of my Sundays and look forward to returning there to worship.

Building and Grounds

Do you ever wonder what it costs to keep our building up and running? Fortunately, we have been able to fund regular monthly expenses as well as necessary and/or emergency work. We can only do all these things because of your faithful giving and the stewardship of our financial resources by the Congregation Council, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Treasurer.

As we find ourselves deeply immersed in our summer slump when it comes to worship attendance and giving, recognize that property expenses do not diminish and unexpected/unbudgeted repairs often arise.

Thank you for your support in helping to maintain and/or improve our space, both inside and outside.

2018 Budgeted Expenses

• Lawn Service (yearly)	\$2,400
• Weed control and fertilizer (yearly)	\$1,400
• HVAC yearly maintenance contract	\$1,764
• Electricity (6 months)	\$2,945
• Gas (6 months)	\$3,412
• Sewer/water (6 months) `	\$402
• Insurance coverage (yearly)	\$7,248

2018 Improvements, Replacements, and Repairs

• Parking lot work sealant, crack repair, re-striping. paid from 2017 surplus	\$6,200
• Painting narthex, multi-purpose room hallways, Fellowship Hall (a.k.a. old Sanctuary) \$1,952 from insurance reimbursement, \$4,890 from Property Repair and Replace fund	\$6,842
• Sanctuary A/C repairs/replacement parts \$3,158 from 2017 surplus, \$2,224 from Property Repair and Replace fund	\$5,382
• Tree removal and chipping from 2018 Property Budget	\$1,400
• Insulate 560 feet of attic water pipes	\$7,500

to be done in late fall
funding source to be determined

- Sanctuary light control panel and front lawn sign repair

\$???

A peaceful and restful summer to one and all. The Fall Schedule begins on September 16.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

James R. Egan