Monday, August 10, 2026

Quick! Name the top 10 people you can invite to church this week.

If you find yourself only being able to name, one or two, you probably aren't alone. But ask someone else to- a family member or another church goer and you will probably figure out the people you left out.

Okay, without scrolling to the bottom of this article, give me a list of 10 songs about the state of Alabama.

Was that a bit easier? You may find yourself listing some others as the day goes on.

This week, Paste Magazine, an American monthly music and entertainment digital magazine, based in Atlanta, Georgia, came out with a list of the top 10 songs about Alabama. Quickly point out the songs from your list that you think are on their list!

Nope, that one isn't on their list. And no, that song wasn't on there. Neither was that one. In fact, I would surmise that your list will look a lot different from theirs. To tell you the truth, I had only heard a couple of these songs and the list I made has some truly classic and well-known songs.

Why did they leave these best-loved songs about Alabama off of this list? I suppose the writer was so knowledgeable about music that they composed the list from a critic's perspective. But they left off some really great songs! Perhaps being "in the know" can make you blind to what people already like or even the best of the best. In that sense, you can easily leave someone or something out.

We in the church are those in the know. But we often are blind to how we tend to leave people out of our blessings and our church family. We think about who we can ask to church and find ourselves naming then rejecting possibilities. That person is too conservative, they won't accept a female preacher. That person likes contemporary worship and won't like our choir. That person usually works on Sundays. That person lives too far away. They already go somewhere to church or they have children could be your reasoning.

However, the point is to invite without leaving someone off the list and out of the possibility of coming to church. You are capable of inviting someone to lunch afterwards. You can provide transportation. You can even invite them to watch online if they need to stay at home! An invitation is just that. It isn't asking them to commit to membership or sign on the dotted line.

In fact, you can start with a social event, like this week's Summer Sunset Social at 5:00 on Saturday. Pick a song to sing with them! You can go to YouTube and look up the name of the song with the word Karaoke. This would be a great way to show how much fun we have together.

Think again about who you can invite to church. As I said, ask someone else to help you with this list. You will be amazed at the list of the people who could be left out.

Invite someone to church this week!
Amelia

PS Here's the list from Paste Magazine

1. Boulder to Birmingham- Emmylou Harris
2. Angel from Montgomery- John Prine
3. The Three Great Alabama Icons- Drive by Truckers
4. Alabama- John Coltrane
5. Guitar Man - Jerry Reed
6. Alabama Pines-Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit
7. Alabama Rain - Jim Croce
8. Midnight in Montgomery- Alan Jackson
9. Alabama Sundown - Dolly Parton
10. Saxophones- Jimmy Buffett