

Love your neighbor!

Ideas for being a witness in
your neighborhood.



Williamson's Chapel
united methodist church

“I’ve always wanted to have a neighbor just like you...”

Thank you for your interest in being a witness to your neighbors! We at Williamson’s Chapel believe that you will be blessed as you strive to be a blessing in your neighborhood. By loving our neighbors, we show them God’s love, too. Be a good neighbor, and maybe others will begin to say, “I’ve always wanted to have a neighbor just like you.”

People might ask why you are doing this. It’s because God showed love for us by becoming our neighbor in Jesus. Therefore, we are reaching out to our neighbors in love. This is about developing authentic relationships. This is not a solicitation or a sales tactic, but a way to get to know our neighbors and *be the church*. We can claim our God-given neighbors, and together build up our community in love.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” –Luke 10:27

What Might Happen? You might...

- Welcome and meet new neighbors
- Find others with common interests
- Understand one another better
- Identify common issues/opportunities that can be collectively solved
- Help others going through life challenges and celebrations
- Begin a friendship that continues throughout your life
- Become known as a someone who loves God and neighbor
- Share the love of Jesus with a neighbor

How Do I Get Started?

- Pray for Your Neighborhood.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Does God put anyone on your heart or any group of people?

- Find a Partner?
 - Do you have any other Will Chap folks on your street? Ask them to co-host with you.

- Choose Type of Gathering
 - See the next page for some ideas. “Gathering” during a pandemic doesn’t have to happen in person. Don’t be afraid to get creative!

- Choose Size of Group
 - The amount of people you are willing to host may affect the neighbors you target: e.g., Immediate next-door neighbors? The whole street/block? Dog owners? Families with young kids? Retirees?

- Choose Date, Time, and Location
 - You may, of course, host a gathering any time of the year. However, we want to challenge you to host something before the end of the year. There is no better time to become a witness than now!

- Let the Church Help
 - The Witness Ministry is offering the following resources:
 - \$50-100 grant to help with the costs of hosting.
 - Custom invitations printed for you.
 - New neighbor bags, compliments of Lowes Foods.

Types of “Gatherings”

As COVID-19 continues to be a concern, it is important that you bring the neighborhood together in ways that are safe and make everyone comfortable. Below are some ideas for “gatherings” both virtual and in-person that accommodate social distancing and other health guidelines. Remember, these are just suggestions. Come up with the idea that works best for you!

In-person

Host a bonfire in your yard.

Start a walking group.

Bring-your-own-lunch picnic.

Cul-de-sac coffee hour: pick a day and time each week to sit and chat outside, bring your own coffee and chair.

Outdoor Movie night: everyone pitch in to rent a screen and projector, and watch a movie on the lawn.

Virtual

Host a video chat game night through services like JackBox.

Online cooking class: Everyone prepare the same recipe while on a group video chat.

Host a competition for the best Christmas decorations, and hold the award ceremony by video chat.

Want help brainstorming other ideas? Contact our Witness Chair, Janet Hosler (jhosler123@gmail.com)

Helpful Tips

- Be a host: help facilitate connections among your neighbors, pointing out shared interests, hometowns, etc.
- If hosting a virtual gathering, offer to walk anyone through the technology ahead of time.
- If hosting an in-person gathering, assure everyone ahead of time that you will be respecting health guidelines.
- Don't be afraid to point them to Jesus. You can do this naturally and in a non-threatening way:
 - Open with a simple prayer
 - Tell them that your church challenged you to host this
 - Close by inviting them to worship (online or in-person)
 - If you discover a need, share about the church's care ministries
- Collect contact information so that you can follow up with a thank you and reach out to them in the future.

Resources

Our church believes that these gatherings could have a significant impact on your neighborhoods and on our community as a whole. Therefore the Witness Ministry is offering the following resources to support your efforts:

- \$50-100 grants to help with the costs of hosting.
- Custom invitations printed for you.
- New neighbor bags, compliments of Lowes Foods.

To receive any or all of these resources, simply contact Pastor Joe (joeprecht@willchapumc.org) to let him know about your event and what resources you would like.

Sample Invitation

We would love to help you customize your own invitation and print them for you. Contact Pastor Joe (joeprecht@willchapumc.org).

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

SATURDAY, NOV _ 2020



5 P M

7 P M

BYOC - BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

LOCATION

RSVP to _____