

SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

We LOVE

No matter who you are, where you live, how busy or how comfortable you are being with people right now, we have an opportunity for you!

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

John 13:34 NLT

One of the best ways we can love our communities is by becoming better neighbors—serving those we live close to and have relationship with. There are several different ways to serve your neighbors, and we encourage you to prayerfully consider a way that would love your neighbors well.

SERVE A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

As a group or family, choose a friend, family member, or neighbor who could use some extra love and care. Brainstorm some of the best ways to meet that need. Ideas include:

Meal train: Commit to providing a meal for a family in need. If this is done with your group, assign specific nights for each family to provide a meal.

Landscaping: This could include mowing grass, picking up sticks, raking leaves, or pulling weeds.

KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFUL

Here are some ideas:

Gather at a local park to pick up trash. This is a great opportunity to bring some beauty to the place you call home while serving alongside your friends, family, group, or neighbors.

On trash day, collect your neighbor's trash cans (just make sure you don't block their parking spot!).

ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Ideas include:

Use sidewalk chalk on your driveway or your neighbors' driveways (with permission) to encourage and brighten the day of those who pass by.

Fill a tumbler or basket with supplies and goodies specific to someone's occupation (i.e. school supplies for a teacher) or something more general like coffee or chocolate. Include an encouraging note that helps the recipient get to know you.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Creative Outreach Ideas:

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION

"We filled 150 coffee cups with energy powders, slim jim's, trail mix, and gift cards."

VETS TO VETS

Lifepointe Church in VA hosted a "Vets to Vets" project where they empowered veterans to make a difference by putting together care kits for other fellow vets.

TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Grow Life Church in FL blessed a local school staff with 3 refrigerators full of their favorite drinks, snacks, and candy as a way to let them know they are seen, loved, and prayed for.

BREAKROOM ENCOURAGEMENT

Journey Church in FL served breakfast and gave out notes of encouragement and prayer guides to local educators in their city to brighten their day and encourage them during these challenging times.

WOMEN'S CENTER

A team from Church of the Highlands delivered diapers, wipes, formula, and baby supplies to a local Women's Center to help expecting moms in need.

PARTNER CARE

A team from Church Home in WA blessed a local organization that serves victims of human trafficking by helping to deep clean their facilities and prepare emergency food packs for those they serve.

Share your creative ideas! #WeLove2020



GOD, OPEN MY EYES TO ONE PERSON WHO NEEDS YOUR LOVE TODAY AND GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO SHARE IT.

As people are starting to gather together again, we know what our community and world need most right now is prayer. We want to pray anxieties and fears are relieved. We need a prayer movement within our church to lift our communities up before God.

Prayerwalking around your neighborhood or community is a great way to lift up others to God in prayer. But if you have never gone on a prayerwalk before, it might feel strange. Below are a few practical tips to consider as well as some Scriptures to inspire you as you begin your prayerwalk.

PRAY THOUGHTFULLY:

- Be sure to follow the advice of community and health professionals and practice appropriate safety precautions like social distancing, face masks, etc.
- Invite friends or family to join you for your prayerwalk. This can be a great way to teach kids how to pray for our neighbors and community.
- Prayerwalking is not about evangelism or praying in a way that attracts unnecessary attention (Matthew 6:5). The focus of your prayerwalk should be to lift up your neighbors to God in prayer.
- Walk the streets around your home or consider starting your walk from your child's school, a local business, a Central Mission Partner, or another area of your community.
- If you are walking in a neighborhood or area you are unfamiliar with, make sure to know where you are going and how to get back to your home or vehicle when you begin walking.

PRAY SCRIPTURALLY:

- Thank God for preserving life and keeping so many safe in this time of crisis.
"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life..." Psalm 138:7 NIV
- Ask God to help you to live in a way that honors God so that He would be glorified in your community.
"Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts." Isaiah 26:8 NIV
- Pray over the land you are walking on and ask God to give it to you as a "spiritual harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)
"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." Genesis 13:17 NIV
- Use the prayerwalk as an opportunity to teach your children about why we pray for our neighbors and community.
"Impress (these commandments) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road..." Deuteronomy 6:7 NIV
- Ask God to create unique encounters with others as you walk and pray. Jesus often engaged with others as He was walking somewhere. (Mark 2:14, 11:27, and Luke 9:57)

Go to centralnow.com/pray to let us know *who* you've been praying with and *where* you have been prayerwalking.

We would love to join with you as you pray, share a picture or video on social media and use #p41onthemove to connect with others. You can also engage with the PRAY FOR ONE Facebook group with pictures and comments.