

Neighbor

Summer 2018





CHAPEL STREET CHURCH

FOR WHERE YOU ARE



A Note From Our Pastor



Dear Chapelstreet Church Family,

In Matthew 22:36-39, a lawyer challenges Jesus asking him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Jesus answers him saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself”. When this same lawyer asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus told him to be a neighbor.

So how are we doing today? How are we doing at being truly “good neighbors?”

Well, the latest statistics say: not so hot actually. According to the General Social Survey, only about 20% of Americans spend time regularly with their

neighbors, while a third say they’ve never interacted with them.

Just four decades ago, however, one-third of Americans hung out with neighbors at least two times a week. The Pew Research Center in 2010, found that while 43% of Americans know most of their neighbors, nearly a third say they know none of them by name.

For whatever reason, it appears that fewer and fewer of us are able to answer the simple question, “And who is my neighbor?”

How do we Christians overcome this growing cultural trend of isolation and obey our calling

to love our neighbors as ourselves?

I think we can all agree that a good place to begin is by getting to know their names!

Summer-time in Illinois is a great time to get to know your neighbors! For one thing, your neighbors are more likely to be outside and you’ll see them more often now that everyone has come out of hibernation after the long winter months.

Make it your personal “neighboring goal” that by the end of the summer, you will know the names of the families living closest to you, and that you will pray for each of them by name!

Happy Neighboring!

Pastor Jeff



If you've ever wondered...

What is a chapel on your street?

Our church name comes from our deep commitment to loving our neighbors well and representing the church of Jesus Christ in our own homes.

At Chapelstreet Church, we talk about what it means to be a “good neighbor” fairly often. This is because we believe that rather than waiting for our neighbors to find our church, we want to find them! We are gospel agents on our streets and in our neighborhoods. The Church is so much more than a building; it's each one of us, each one of our homes as places of grace, faith and impact. Every house like a chapel on its street.



chapel

/ 'CHap l / (noun)

Small house of worship that is connected to a larger church body

In Luke 9, Jesus sent his disciples out into their own neighborhood in order to proclaim the good news of the gospel. We don't know exactly where Jesus sent them, but the story starts and ends in Galilee: their own neighborhood.

Jesus began by giving them power and authority. He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to authenticate his message with their healing ministry. Jesus sent the disciples out with nothing extra: no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, and no extra shirt. They set out in full dependence on God and on the goodwill of the people they came to serve.

When Jesus sent his disciples on a mission trip, he asked them to start in their own neighborhood. In the same way, we want to follow that model as we reach our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ.



In case you missed it...

During the Art of Neighboring sermon series, we encouraged everyone to fill out this diagram. See if you can name your closest surrounding neighbors.

You can also fill in details you might know about their lives and interests! This can give you a good starting point for your party invitations.

Neighbor Fact: 300,000 people in our neighborhood would say they have no connection to a church.



Throw a *Backyard BBQ*

HOST
— A —
BBQ PARTY

Summer is the perfect time to be outside with neighbors, friends and family. Oftentimes we think of reaching our neighbors as us inviting them to church but the work of reaching our neighbors really begins in building genuine relationships right where you are. A backyard BBQ is the perfect way to start.

This summer, take the challenge of planning and hosting *your* neighbors in *your* yard. Don't worry about an agenda or a program, or pinterest-perfection. This is about being together around the table. The gospel oftentimes starts around a shared meal and good conversation.

Make it: Raspberry Lemonade Popsicles



cookieanddoughnovenmitt.com

Ingredients:

- 1 + 1/4 cup raspberries
- 2 Tbs granulated sugar
- 2- 6oz Yoplait Yogurt (French vanilla)
- 1 Tbs lemon juice
- zest of 1 lemon

Place raspberries in a fine mesh strainer. Press through with a spatula until all the juice is in a bowl. Add sugar and stir to combine.

Mix yogurt, lemon juice and lemon zest. Scoop yogurt mix into popsicle molds. Top with raspberry puree. Freeze!



How to throw a great backyard BBQ!

Step 1: Send out invitations. You can pick up some invitations from Chapelstreet, or create your own. Facebook events and e-vites are another easy way to get the word out. Don't know your neighbors' yet? Just put an invitation on their door!

Step 2: Keep it simple. Real plates are not necessary. No need to pull all the weeds. People feel more at home in a less-than-perfect environment.

Step 3: Provide easy entertainment. Yard games are a great way to have a low-

pressure conversation. Bags, ladder-ball, Kan Jam, washers, etc. are all easy to find and fun to play. Plus these leisure sports are easy to play for all ages.

Step 4: Don't do it all yourself. People are happy to bring something to share. Grab burgers and dogs and ask neighbors to bring a side.

Step 5: Remember the goal. The point of this event is to get to know your neighbors and to begin to build a friendship. No need to force spiritual conversations, just relax and have fun learning about their unique stories.



No toys? No Problem!

You can find easy fun at the dollar store! Bubbles, balls, spinning toys, net ball toss, etc. are a great, inexpensive way to keep kids entertained.

Running through the sprinkler is classic fun for kids of all ages, and a great way to cool down on a hot day.



Mexican Street Corn Pasta Salad

Salad

- 2 cups miniature farfalle pasta
- 3 cups of corn (canned, cob or frozen will work)
- 1 large avocado, diced
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 Tbs jalapeño, finely chopped
- 6-8 strips of bacon
- 1/2 cup cotija or queso fresco
- 1/2 cup canned black beans

Dressing

- 1/2 cup full fat mayo
- 3 Tbs fresh lime juice
- 1/4 tsp lime zest
- 1/8 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp sriracha
- pinch of salt and pepper

Cook pasta and chill. Char corn. Cook and crumble bacon. Crumble cheese. Mix together salad ingredients. Mix dressing ingredients in a separate bowl. Whisk. Pour over the salad and enjoy!

So, What's Stopping You?

I'm not a social butterfly

Start small! No need to invite the whole neighborhood. Invite one or two families over for a more intimate gathering.

I Don't Have Enough Tables and Chairs

No problem! Write BYO chair on the invites OR lay out blankets in the grass for a picnic themed party.

I'm too busy

We all have to eat! This is a natural rhythm of life, you just need to make a little more room around the table.

I've lived here forever; it's too late to start now

It's never too late to make connections. People are hungry for community and the type of friendship you can provide.



Colleen & Jan

A Neighboring Story

Neighbor Fact:

Only 21% of active churchgoers invite anyone to church in a year. Only 2% invited an unchurched person to church.

Chuck and Colleen Wartman lived in the same cul-de-sac with Jan and Steve Jeffrey in the Munhall neighborhood of St. Charles.

Jan knew the Wartmans were a young family and wanted their kids to have the same opportunities her own kids had being raised in the church. She developed a heart for the children.

Jan and Steve spent a lot of time out in their yard and naturally got to know the Wartmans. Eventually, Jan told Colleen about the Easter Eggstravaganza.

Colleen decided to come to church because it was good for her kids. She liked the environment.

She noticed there was something different about the Jeffreys. They were kind and took time to get to know her family. They were authentic and real, but they were never judgmental.

Colleen's husband, Chuck, was impressed that Steve was such a "normal guy." He wasn't a Bible-thumper, he was just friendly. And he was always willing to help out-- without needing to be asked.

Jan felt nudged to get a Bible for Colleen. So she did. Colleen started reading the gospels. She was unsure at first but would eventually join her first Bible study.



Meeting Jan would change the trajectory of Colleen's life and her family's lives as well.

17 years later, Colleen reads out of that same well-loved Bible she received from a neighbor who cared enough to reach out and make a connection.

Fun and easy ways to...

Meet Your Neighbors



1 Embrace the front yard!

Sit on the porch and give yourself the opportunity to say hello to a neighbor. We often find ourselves spending summer days in the backyard but the front is where most of the action happens.

2 Set up a lemonade stand with your kids!

An old-fashioned lemonade stand will bring even the most reclusive of neighbors out into the sunshine. Put a few chairs out so people can sit and stay a while.

3 Walk your neighborhood!

Spend peaceful evenings strolling through the neighborhood and meeting your neighbors, right where they're at. Having a cute dog always helps!

4 Become a regular at the neighborhood park or pool!

Opportunities abound to chat with your neighbors at the local park. Plus the kids might make some new friends. Stay later after a practice or game for an easy way to connect with those you don't know. You can also keep an eye out for playdates in the park!

5 Look for ways to lend a hand!

Whether you're mowing a lawn or offering to pick up mail for a neighbor on vacation, look for simple ways to serve the people around you. Overgrown garden? Share your extra veggies with a handwritten note. Or offer to divide up your hostas with whichever neighbors might be interested.

6 Host a bonfire!

Throw some camp chairs around the fire pit and buy a bag of marshmallows. This low-maintenance gathering is easy to put together and invite a crowd. Sitting around the campfire will surely bring good conversation

It starts with

BLESS

The idea of reaching our neighbors with the gospel can be daunting! Here is a simple strategy to help you get started in the art of neighbor-ing.

Begin with Prayer

Ask God, “How do you want me to bless the people and places where you’ve sent me?” Pray for the people you encounter on a regular basis. God knows their needs and hurts. Ask God to give you opportunities to show his love to your neighbor.

Listen

Listen more than you talk. Pay attention to what your neighbors say. Be curious about their lives. Ask good questions. Remember their responses, and follow up later.



Eat

Share a meal or a cup of coffee with someone in order to develop that relationship. Invite them into your home for a cup of coffee. Order a pizza and let the kids run around while you get to know your neighbors better. Have them over to your backyard for a cookout. Spend time with them. People want to feel connected.

Serve

People will tell you how to serve them as you develop relationships with them. As you begin to learn more details about your friends and neighbors, you will find opportunities to serve them. Are they caring for an aging parent? You could mow their lawn or bring them a meal. Pay attention to what your neighbors share with you and be creative in finding personal ways of showing you care.

Story

When the time is right, share the story of how Jesus has changed your life. Look for natural opportunities to share aspects of your faith with your neighbor. Talk about what you’ve been learning at church. Offer to drive their kids to Vacation Bible School. Mention what the church community has meant for your family.

Extend THE Invitation

There are plenty of opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors to Chapelstreet Church this summer. Whether you ask them to come for a weekend worship service or a special event tailored to their demographic, there is plenty for everyone!



Summer Service Times: (June 10-August 19)

South St:
10:00am Traditional Service
10:00am Word & Table

Keslinger:
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:15am and 10:45am

Mill Creek:
10:00am



Stadium Service- August 26
All of Chapelstreet is invited to an all-church worship service.



Vacation Bible School- June 25-29. Grades 1-4. Keslinger Campus. Register online.



Summer Impact- July 23-27. Grades 5 & 6. South St Campus. Register online.



Women's Walk 6/18
Women's Bike Ride 7/21
Women's Walk 8/14
More info can be found online.



Power Camp. July 9-13 & 16-20. Sports camp for kids entering 3rd-8th grade. Register Online.



Outdoor Family Movie Night. July 19. Mill Creek Campus.

Visit Chapelstreet.church for all the latest!



www.chapelstreet.church
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