

Neighboring Lights gives you an opportunity to engage and care for those who live in your neighborhood.

“Evangelistic mission works effectively when we are living generous, hospitable, Spirit-led, Christlike lives as missionaries to our own neighborhoods.” —Michael Frost

Go South to the Road

The idea “Go South to the Road” comes from the passage in Acts 8:26-40. “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ Philip was compelled to go south to the road and there he met an Ethiopian Eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip was able to explain to the man what the Scripture meant as well as about the good news about Jesus. Later that day Philip baptized him. God has also called us to go south... and listen to the Spirit’s call and direction. He leads us to different places, people, neighborhoods, homes, and settings to share Christ. At First Woodway, we are ready to go wherever God sends us. Whether it be all of the sudden or a well-planned effort, we will join together to Go South to the Road.

Mission/Vision

OPEN TO GOD – we are open to be led by His Spirit.

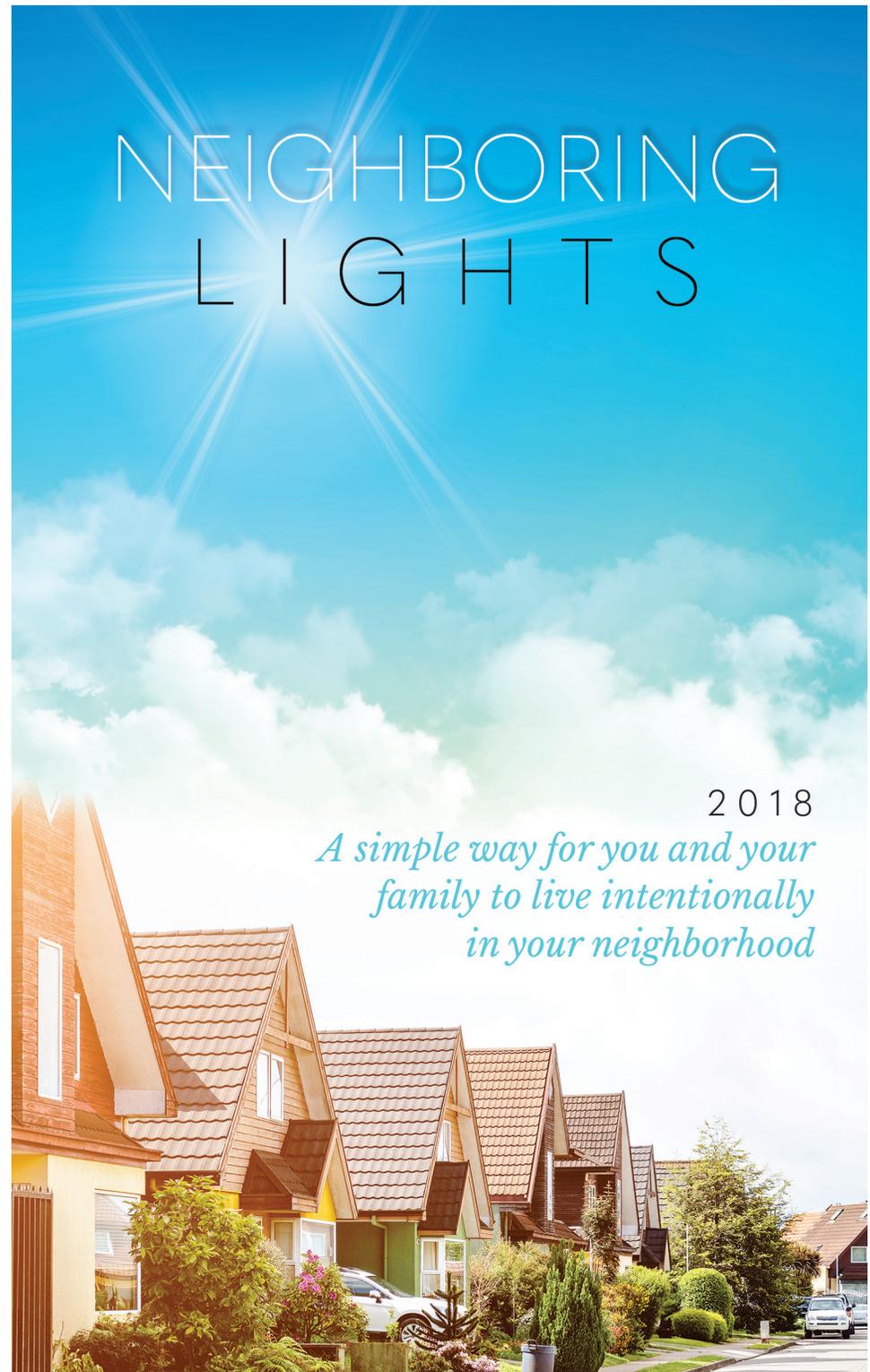
- Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me. 2 Corinthians 2:12
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

OPEN TO PEOPLE – we are open and want to be extended and ready to speak life into individuals.

- We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 2 Corinthians 6:11
- Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. John 15:13

OPEN TO THE WORLD – we are open and available to go and share the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

- On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:27
- Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20



Ideas for Reaching Out to Your Neighbors:

FELLOWSHIP

Host a pre-planned Neighboring Lights Party. Pass out flyers a few days before and be outside before the advertised time. You can provide drink and/or food, but it is not a must. Outdoor games are a good crowd pleaser. Many people will just be happy to get to meet their neighbors!

Host an impromptu Neighboring Lights Party. If it's a pretty night, pull chairs and your grill out in the front yard.

Open your yard to neighbors. If you have children, be in your yard after school and occasionally offer drinks/snacks. If you have a basketball goal, allow the kids to use it when you are home. During a break, hand out water bottles and share the story of Jesus calming the storm (or another story).

Find a workout buddy in your neighborhood. If you see someone else who shares your interest in walking/running, ask that person to join you.

Project a movie onto your garage door and invite neighbors to a movie night. Serve popcorn and drinks. Take time to ask how you can pray for them.

MEET NEW NEIGHBORS

When a new family moves in, bake cookies or make a freezer meal and go for a visit. You can include your family's contact information and invite them to church.

Walk around your neighborhood. Stop to chat with neighbors and get to know them. Try to remember their names, family members' names, and pets' names. (Make notes on your phone!)

SERVE

If your neighbors are out of town, sick, or in need of help, mow their yard or feed their pets and leave a note to say you are praying for them. Offer to help elderly neighbors or just visit and pray with them over their needs. Ask if you can visit regularly.

Have a free lemonade stand or car wash. Don't accept donations just provide a kind service and let them know Jesus loves them and you do too!

INVITE TO CHURCH

Invite neighboring kids and families to church activities. Offer to take them with you if they need a ride.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAYS

Valentine's Day

Host a Valentine's party for the neighborhood kids. You can decorate cookies or cupcakes. Share with them how much Jesus loves them.

Spring Break

It's spring break and you are at home wondering what you can do with the kids. Plan to have a few of the neighborhood kids and parents over. Pray and select a ministry in town. Call a ministry and ask if you can bring items of need. Ask your guest to bring those items for that ministry. Together head out to serve at the ministry. If your kiddos are little then they can make a sweet treat or gift for a shut-in who lives nearby.

Easter

Host a small Easter neighborhood gathering sometime the week before Easter. Pray as to who you will invite. You could have an Easter egg hunt and then serve lunch. During lunch share the True Easter Story. Great time to have those intentional conversations. (Remember to ask a few trusted believers who live in your neighborhood to help with food, the Easter egg hunt and ask them to be ready to share.)

Summer

Plan a block party one evening and provide sparklers, glow necklaces/bracelets, etc. Or, you could have a patriotic bike parade/bike decorating contest, then have refreshments and prizes at the end of the route.

Halloween

This is a perfect time to reach out to your neighbors! Plan to be in your front yard to pass out candy and/or other things like hot dogs, drinks, Bibles, glow bracelets, flyers from our church, etc. As parents bring their children by have a conversation with them. Ideally, you will have the opportunity to develop relationships, share the gospel, invite your neighbors to come to church with you.

Thanksgiving

Invite over neighbors who may not have family living nearby.

Christmas

Go Christmas caroling around your neighborhood. Take with you candy canes that have the Christmas story tied to them or host a Christmas party. You can use these opportunities to talk with others about Jesus and his gift to us. Invite them to church on the Sunday there is a Christmas program or to our Christmas Eve service.