

# Welcome to the Neighborhood

## Creating Community & Connection

### New to the Neighborhood

#### We're New to the Neighborhood

Perhaps your neighbors missed the opportunity to meet you when you first moved in. Take the initiative and deliver cookies to your neighbors with an info card introducing yourself.

#### Neighbor's Table: A Love Mission

Go out on a limb in a new neighborhood and invite everyone to a pot-luck in your backyard. Ask folks to bring a dish to share and a chair. Set up some tables in the yard and provide drinks. Visit [NeighborsTable.com](http://NeighborsTable.com) to hear Sarah's story about her table.

### Meet the Neighbors: Want to meet your neighbors? Here are some good places to start.

#### New Neighbor Bag

Pick up a New Neighbor Bag from the church and pray for the time you will deliver the bag. This is an easy first touch.

#### The Giving Plate

Purchase an inexpensive plate and decorate it with a Sharpie. Place in a 350 degree oven for 30 minutes then turn off leaving the plate in the oven until cool. Fill with a sweet treat and deliver to a neighbor.

#### Front Yard People

Remember the days... the ones folks sat sipping lemonade on front porches? Let's bring that back. Think of ways to make your front yard a place of gathering. Perhaps you put a blue table in your front yard, a circle of adirondack chairs or a portable fire pit. Learn more about finding community and connection in your own front yard in The Turquoise Table by Kristin Schell or at [KristinSchell.com](http://KristinSchell.com).

### Be a Neighbor

#### Listen

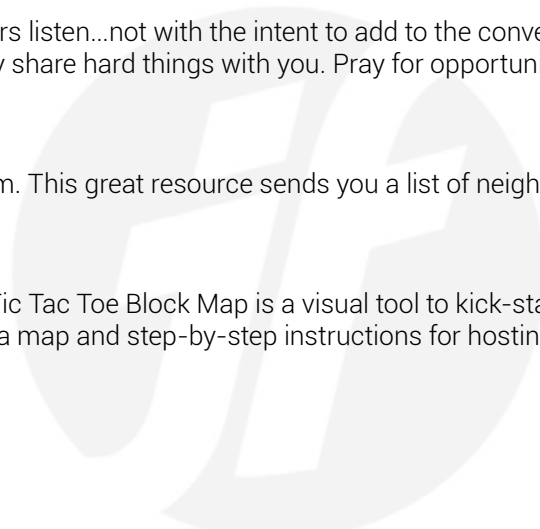
Being present for someone is a gift! As you get to know your neighbors listen...not with the intent to add to the conversation, but to hear. Offer to pray for your neighbors in the moment when they share hard things with you. Pray for opportunities to have gospel conversations daily.

#### [Pray4EveryHome.org](http://Pray4EveryHome.org)

One of the best things you can do for your neighbor is to pray for them. This great resource sends you a list of neighbors (names and addresses) to pray for daily.

#### Tic Tac Toe Block Map

What if Jesus meant that we should love our actual neighbors? The Tic Tac Toe Block Map is a visual tool to kick-start your effort. Pick one up at a church kiosk. Visit [ArtOfNeighboring.com](http://ArtOfNeighboring.com) for a map and step-by-step instructions for hosting a block party.



## Did you know that a third of Americans today have never interacted with their neighbors?

Whether you are new or not, it is never too late to get to know your neighbors. In fact, loving our neighbors is pretty important. The Pharisees once asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. He simply replied...

*"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 foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22: 37-39*

It's so great that we can follow Jesus' teachings where we live, work and play! No travel is necessary, vacation days needed or even training to engage our neighbors! The simple act of noticing, listening and meeting others offers opportunities for us to live and love as missionaries right in our community.

## Make It Happen

**Start small. Start simply. Just start!**

- Welcome bag
- Serve in your neighborhood school
- Cookie swap
- Game night
- Outdoor movie
- Double dinner and share
- Pool party
- Progressive dinner
- Walk the same time each day
- Front yard s'mores
- Pot-luck dinner
- Football viewing party
- Deliver sweets
- Share a meal
- Play group
- #frontyardpeople
- Neighborhood Bible study
- Block party
- Neighborhood parade
- Join the HOA

**Text @JFNEIGHBOR to 81010 for neighboring text reminders. How will God move you?**

