



On Saturday, April 27, we invite you to plan and host an informal **Neighbors Social** where you live. This may be a retirement community, an apartment complex, an urban block, a home on a busy street or a suburban neighborhood. Regardless of your neighborhood make-up, this event can be modified as needed for your setting.

Our GO Week 2024 focus is the Neighbors Social. This year we are focusing on our own local community and building relationships.

WHAT: Invite your neighbors to an informal get together, a time to get to know each other. Offer a few snacks and drinks, but remember, the main goal is simply to get to know your neighbors. A gathering can be as simple as a cup of coffee or as grand as a BBQ or block party. It's about creating connections where there were none or very little.

WHY: The purpose of the Neighbors Social is simple: **Building relationships with your neighbors.**

WHEN: Saturday, April 27. We are encouraging two versions of the Neighbors Social:

- Morning: A two-hour morning social that includes coffee and pastries.
- Afternoon/early evening: Two-hour late afternoon social that includes drinks and snacks. Select the time you think works best in your community.

WHERE: The location can vary depending on your setting. Pick a place people will feel comfortable: your driveway, front yard, a common room, parking lot, neighborhood park, etc. Select a location that feels inviting and natural.

THE WHY BEHIND THE WHAT: Recognizing that relationships can be barriers, our goal of this event is to know our neighbors' names, get a snapshot of their lives, and foster fellowship. As local co-missionaries, we need to become comfortable trying different things to learn from various approaches. Similar to how global missionaries explore different inroads, we aim to experiment and adapt as local co-missionaries. The **Neighbors Social** is like a missions experiment. Some may have a great turnout while others have none. While this may be discouraging, it's not a failure! Regardless of the outcome, approach this as a learning experience and a time to rely on God for prayer and wisdom.

Our expectation is not that you directly share the Gospel during the event. However, if the door opens, take it. **The purpose of the Neighbors Social is simple: Gather your neighbors for an informal get together that's focused on building relationships.**

RESOURCES: Brandywine is providing door hangers so you can invite your closest neighbors. Fill in the blanks on the door hanger, using a permanent marker, with your event specifics. A personal invite is the best. A door hanger can be given when you speak to the neighbor or left if there is no answer.

NOTE: April 21-26, we will send daily "Neighbor Spirit Week" communications that includes an engagement and a neighbor-focused challenge. These will be sent via the Prayer Chain Email, text and be posted on Facebook.



NEIGHBORS SOCIAL

INSTRUCTIONS: To enhance the impact, use these instructions to you help prepare.

<p>1. Pray First! (April 7-27) Three weeks before the Neighbors Social, begin prayer walking your neighborhood once a week. Amp up your prayer for your My Hashtag names as well.</p>	<p>2. Team Up Find others in your neighborhood who will partner with you. Plan the event with them. If they are believers, spend time in prayer with them.</p>	<p>3. Inviting (April 14-21) At least two weeks before, begin inviting neighbors. We encourage you to knock on doors and invite them. If they don't answer, leave a door hanger. Text and call as well.</p>
<p>4. Before the Event (April 21-27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase/prepare food (make labels that include ingredients) • Provide drinks (coffee, juice or be creative, but keep it simple) • Provide ample paper products • Have a table for food and drinks • Provide enough seating • If you expect children, consider an activity for them (sidewalk chalk, game, book, etc.). <p>Take a picture of your set-up and text it to 302-563-1524 on the day of your event.</p>		
<p>5. During the Event (April 27) Greet everyone who attends and make them feel welcome. Do less talking. Ask good questions that allow your guests to talk about themselves (see brandywine.church/myhashtag). If agreeable, get a group selfie. Email it to terry.foester@brandywine.church or text 302-563-1524.</p>	<p>6. After the Event (April 28-May 4) If you get phone numbers or email addresses make sure you personally thank those who attended. Also pray that God will open doors for deeper relationships in the future.</p>	

GUIDING SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:28-31 (The Greatest Commandment)

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."