

B BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Download the BLESS app. Provide your address. Every day you will receive a unique prayer and five neighbors to pray for. If using the app isn't a good option for you, just draw a simple map of your neighborhood. As you meet people, add their names to your map and pray for them by name each day.



L LISTEN

TRAINING
SCHEDULE ON
THE BACK!

Meaningful relationships are built through curiosity, humility, and attentiveness. Our trainings this month are designed to help us listen better—both to our neighbors and to the Spirit—so that our words, when they come, are thoughtful, loving, and rooted in truth.

E EAT



As part of Love Where You Live, we are asking the congregation to host or co-host a neighborhood gathering in your own neighborhood or apartment complex. Scan the code to get started!

S^E SERVE

Let's find ways to serve our neighbors! Using this activity calendar, add some service opportunities to your schedule on the inside. Bring in a neighbor's trash bins, write a note to your local service worker, teacher, or postman. There are many easy ways to engage and encourage those around us!

S^H SHARE YOUR STORIES



During Love Where You Live, we're inviting everyone to share celebrations of ways you've connected with or loved on your neighbors, in big ways or small ways. Scan the code to share!

IMPORTANT DATES



FEBRUARY 1

11AM IN THE WORSHIP CENTER

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE CHURCHWIDE KICKOFF

Learn more about Love Where You Live and how to fully engage

Learn best practices about building spiritual friendships with those around you

FEBRUARY 8

VIDEO TRAINING IN YOUR GROW GROUP

ME, A CHAPLAIN? HOW TO BE A SPIRITUAL FRIEND

Learn from Pastor Arthur about what it means to be a chaplain in your neighborhood

Develop skills for loving and serving your neighbors as you point them to Jesus

FEBRUARY 15

VIDEO TRAINING IN YOUR GROW GROUP

UNDERSTANDING & ENGAGING OUR INDIAN NEIGHBORS, PART 1

Learn from our friend Scott Wiens, who has been involved in ministry in India and locally among Indians for many years. Scott will help us learn the basics about connecting with our Indian neighbors. Don't miss out on our more in-depth training coming up on February 22! (See below.)

FEBRUARY 22

VIDEO TRAINING IN YOUR GROW GROUP

HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY

Learn how to share your story of what God has done and is doing in your life.

You will be equipped to share the gospel simply, naturally, and relationally whenever the Holy Spirit gives you the opportunity.

FEBRUARY 22

7PM IN THE SEMINAR ROOM

UNDERSTANDING & ENGAGING OUR INDIAN NEIGHBORS, PART 2

Learn from our partners in India at Lakeview Life Centre how to connect with your neighbors from India. You'll learn the basics about the Hindu worldview, practical dos and don'ts for building relationships, and common barriers and opportunities for sharing your faith naturally.

Got a specific question you want answered?

Email it to Pastor Amy at awilkins@vrbc.net by February 12.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL NEIGHBORING@VRBC.NET



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE





LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Building intentional friendships and sharing faith naturally

FEBRUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 VRBC Kickoff Download the BLESS app	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Superbowl Sunday (opportunity)!	9	10	11	12	13	14 Deliver “you are loved” kindness cards or treats with a scripture
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Understanding & Engaging Our Indian Neighbors Training 7:00pm	23	24	25	26	27	28

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Keep it flexible!
- Make it work for me
- Bring other neighbors alongside me (to build momentum)
- Listen for neighbors’ birthdays, anniversaries, special events

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Open with something unique to my neighborhood
- Discuss “neighborhood news”
- Offer helpful hints or referrals
- Bring a welcome treat/note to newcomers

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

- Pray continuously
- Keep my promises
- When possible, share photos of “building community” moments
- Self-check: “how was my week?”

SHARING MY STORY

- Recount my faith story in simple terms
- Write it down
- Tell a family member or close friend
- Tell a new friend

HOW IT WORKS

Each day in February, pick one activity to engage with your neighbors. Fill in your calendar on the opposite page with one activity per day, using the letters at the top and numbers on the left (like map coordinates or a bingo board) to indicate on the map which activity you will do each day. For example, on Feb 2, you may want to walk or drive your neighborhood and notice the people God has placed in your sphere of influence. Write L1 in the space for Feb 2 on your calendar.”

	B	L	E	S ^E	S ^H
	BEGIN WITH PRAYER	LISTEN	EAT	SERVE	SHARE
1	Pray for my street	Take a short walk or drive & notice my neighborhood	Drop off a small treat with a friendly note	Text, message my neighbor just to say ‘hi’	Introduce myself, share, find common ground
2	Pray for my neighboring partner	Learn one or two neighbor’s names, write them down	Invite a neighbor to coffee	Bring in a neighbor’s trash bin	Compliment a neighbor (garden, pet, kindness)
3	Pray for God to open my eyes to needs	Keep a neighborhood notes list on my fridge	Host, co-host, or attend a gathering	Offer to carry groceries	Share useful info, event, or local recommendation
4	Pray for my neighbors by name - for one conversation opportunity	Invite my neighbor for a walk or to the dog park	Drop a thank you note or snack to my fire station, comm. center, school	Write a note to a teacher, postal or service worker	Share something personal, my story, faith, or small struggle
5	Thank God for forming relationships	Learn something about my neighbor	Deliver or share a meal with my neighbor, new parent, elderly, or living alone	Leave a positive review for a neighbor’s business	Invite my neighbor to church with me or watch online
6	Pray for my neighbors by group; kids, parents, singles...	Start a neighborhood group chat	Invite neighbors to help you host or co-host the March gathering	Ask a neighbor “how can I praying for you?”	Share a book, podcast, etc. that’s encouraged by faith
7	Share neighbors prayer requests with my Grow Group	Create a street map with neighbor names			

MORE NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING IDEAS

The March gathering is just the first step. Make a goal to have ongoing contact with your neighbors; monthly, quarterly, annually, or more! Here are some ideas to consider:

IDEAS FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR

- New Year’s Eve (or Day) party
- Superbowl
- Valentine’s (friends) day
- Lunar New Year (Feb. 17, 2026)
- Start-of-spring or Spring Break
- St. Patrick’s Day
- Easter
- Earth Day
- Cinco de Mayo
- Memorial Day
- End-of-school party
- Start-of-summer party
- 4th of July
- Start-of-school party
- Labor Day
- National Night Out (Oct. 7, 2026)
- Halloween or pumpkin-carving party
- Thanksgiving / Friendsgiving
- Start of winter party
- Christmas gathering

ANYTIME GATHERINGS

- Game night (Bunco, Board games, Mahjong, Cards, Trivia, Chess)
- Lego or puzzle night
- Movie night (indoors or projector and a sheet in the yard)
- Coffee or hot chocolate meetup
- S’mores over a firepit
- Picnic at a nearby park
- Sports watch party
- Coffee or tea
- Porch hang / front-yard social
- Neighborhood cleanup or garden day
- Yard sale or swap day
- Book or comic exchange

CELEBRATIONS & MILESTONES

- New neighbor welcome gathering
- Neighborhood anniversary or founding day
- Monthly shared birthdays celebration
- Graduation congratulations gathering
- Farewell party for neighbors moving

FOOD & DRINK FOCUSED*

- Potluck night (monthly theme)
- Cookout / BBQ
- Soup night / chili night
- Taco Tuesday
- Breakfast club / weekend brunch
- Cookie or dessert exchange night

ACTIVITY-BASED

- Walking club
- Running group
- Bike ride meetup
- Yoga or stretch night
- Pick-up sports night (basketball, soccer, pickleball)

CREATIVE & LEARNING

- Book club
- Craft night
- Knitting or crochet circle
- Art night
- Writing club

* In planning your menu, consider that your neighbors may avoid certain foods depending on their religious or cultural background. Many avoid pork or beef, or don’t eat meat at all. You may want to provide vegetarian options and consider chicken/poultry in lieu of other meats.