

Second Sunday in the Streets

Jesus' teaching showed his followers a new way to look at the world and a new way to look at their purpose. He taught about what love is and what it looks like to extend love not only to those who are easy to love, but also to enemies and to those we don't even know. It is this kind of love that separates his followers from the rest of the world and this love that should define everything we do, including how we worship.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 13:35

Once a month, in lieu of a conventional morning worship service, Parkside River Campus worships God through obedience to his command to "Love your Neighbor." We're calling it Second Sunday in the Streets.

*"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."
- 2 John 1:6*

A normal Sunday in the Streets will take place on the second Sunday of the month. It includes at least two organized service activities in the River Campus neighborhood that happen during the usual morning worship service time. People sign up for one of these activities in the weeks prior to Sunday in the Streets so the leaders have a general idea of how many people will be working. The groups meet for a brief time of teaching and fellowship, then head out to love their neighbors in a concrete way.

To best serve the community, Second Sunday in the Streets won't always be the second Sunday, it won't always be just on Sunday and only a few of the service opportunities will actually be in the streets. Loving people isn't a program, so we cannot dictate exactly how it happens. What we do is simply create opportunities for selfless Christian love to flow and to show others what that looks like. It may change their life; it will certainly change yours.



"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- Matthew 22:36-40

Questions and Answers

Q. Is this legal? I mean, can we really just skip church once a month?

A. The greek word for “Church” means “the called out ones.” It was a collection of those people who were different from the world because they were followers, or disciples, of Jesus. We think that serving others and asking for nothing in return is radically different from what the rest of the world does. Jesus flatly says in John 13:35 that love is how the world will know we are his followers. More than okay, we think God wants us to love our neighbors more often than we do now.

Q. What about childcare?

A. Loving your neighbor and selflessly serving others is something you can’t learn too early. It’s our goal to always provide a child-friendly service opportunity that is appropriate for elementary age kids. We will be providing nursery and Pre-K aged childcare at the newly remodeled Parkside Outreach and Community Center at 3710 Eastern Ave.

Q. What about people who show up at the LeBlond Rec Center expecting a normal Sunday worship service?

A. We’ll post notices on the doors at LeBlond explaining what we’re doing and how to contact us. That way they can find one of our groups and start serving others. Some months we’ll have people serving at LeBlond as well.

Q. How long do we serve?

A. If you mean, “How long do you serve on one of these Sundays,” we’d like people to commit to serving at least the same amount of time they’d spend in a conventional worship service - about one hour. Due to their nature, some of the opportunities will require a longer commitment.

If you mean, “How long are we going to keep doing this,” the answer is “indefinitely.”

Q. When will I have a chance to give my offering?

A. All of our work groups will meet briefly before heading out to serve. Somebody there will be able to handle collecting your offering and communion and prayer. If you are really worried about giving, don’t forget that you can also give electronically by going to <http://saalem.visitparkside.com/register.php>

Q. I have an idea about a way we can serve. Where can I send it?

A. We love ideas! Send it to gfrank@visitparkside.com, promise to take the lead and we’ll try to make it happen.

Q. What if I don’t like this whole idea?

A. That’s okay. We’ll still be having regular services at our Salem Road location. Sit this one out and feel free to serve with the River Campus whenever you’re ready.

The Next Second Sunday in the Streets is:

February 14 - Valentine's Day

Project 1 - Peddler's Flea Market

Peddler's Flea market is on Kellogg Avenue near the intersection with Wilmer Rd. It draws hundreds of people each weekend and both the shoppers and those manning the booths could use a loving pick-me-up on a cold February morning. In this kid-friendly project, we'll be passing out free hot chocolate and chocolate hearts.

Project 2 - Neighborhood Greenskeeping

This is an ongoing project to partner with residents in cleaning up and maintaining the public greenspaces and some abandoned lots in the neighborhood. Bring your gloves!

Upcoming Sundays in the Streets:

March 14

April 11 (Earth Day cleanup)

May 2 (Flying Pig Marathon)