



**SIMPLE WAYS TO BE
THE GOOD NEWS
THIS CHRISTMAS**



BEAVERCREEK
Christian Church



We have found that for us to have an imagination for living God's mission in our everyday lives we need practical ideas to jumpstart us. Most of the things in this list are normal everyday things that many people may already be doing. The hope is that we would do these things with the intentionality to be good news of great joy this Christmas.

We want to encourage you to do these things:

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people.
- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.
- Look to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the good news of great joy.

We have tried to categorize this list for you but not all of them fall neatly into a category. Not all of these are for everyone either, we all have different gifts that we live into. Evangelists or Apostles may approach these differently than Shepherds or Teachers, but we hope there will be ideas on the list that God uses to inspire you and help you become the good news of great joy to all the world where you live daily.

Dinner Blessing: Order dinner or just treats for your neighbors through Door Dash or Grub Hub. Send them a note or text (some sort of message) to let them know it's from you. Maybe do one neighbor a week and encourage them to pay it forward.

Help do some yard work or shovel snow, it will be good news for your neighbor.

Food Drive: do a food drive just in your neighborhood. Ask neighbors to donate what they can and find a local food bank/shelter that needs your collection.

Coat Drive: Do a coat drive and invite those in your neighborhood to get involved. We have two different clothing banks we work with that could use the coats.

Caroling group. Organize a neighborhood caroling group using a mixture of secular and Christian Christmas songs. Plan one carol-sing practice *ahead of time*, wear masks, and *bless your neighborhood*.

Cheer up a neighbor. Think of someone in the neighborhood who has a special need for encouragement—someone who recently lost a loved one, lost a job, has struggled with health problems, etc. Organize neighbors to do something special (a “community Christmas gift”) to help or encourage this person.

Help people go shopping: Organize a shopping trip where you go shopping for your elderly friends or neighbors. Ask them for the list and let them know you'll get everything they need. OR maybe help them set up and order things online.

Neighborly treats. Prepare some Christmas treats in attractive containers (tins or decorated boxes or baskets) and take them to the neighbors around you, especially those that you want to develop or enhance a redemptive relationship with. Take your entire family with you, kids included, to deliver them. Make sure when you are baking to use health precautions and stay social distant when you deliver the treats.



Carol Singing For vulnerable people: Invite a group of people to go with you to visit a local assisted living facility and carol around outside each window so they can listen and not be exposed to possible viruses.

Host an outside Christmas movie watching party. You may need to build a fire(s) but it might make for a creative social distancing holiday.

Seek out school representatives and see if you can bless a teacher, (appreciation days, awards ceremonies, clean up days, supply needs, etc..) During COVID they need this.

Buy an extra dozen donuts and give them to a neighbor (everyone loves Bills). Maybe even pick one neighbor a week or every few days and bless them individually.

Collect Goodwill items for neighbors. Better yet, ask them to help you collect items.

Do a Saturday morning coffee run for neighbors or friends with whom you want to connect. — YOU BUY.

Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with others in person or online — its not the same as in person but the connection means something.

Start your work day a bit early during advent so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.

Christmas letter by snail mail. Send a special, personalized Christmas message postal mail (snail mail) to some of your friends, you could include a brief version of your personal faith story connected to the Christmas story if it is appropriate.

Birthday party in a box for baby Jesus. Especially for children, organize a special “birthday party” with a focus on the birth of Jesus. Plan for appropriate crafts, fun activities, yummy treats, and a story time for telling the Bible’s Christmas story. Put all of that in a box and bless your friends and neighbors.

Invite to Church: If you attend in person or online, take a moment and invite a friend to join you, then make sure to follow up with a discussion on their thoughts and opinions, don’t correct them, dig into why they see things the way they do, you may be surprised as to how God opens doors.

Bring Christmas to families: Talk with the BCC office, Ning Peel, The Promise House or someone you know connected to International families and be Santa for them this year. Do it all up — lights, tinsel, food, and presents. Show them what good news of great joy means.

Homeless Shelters still need you: Arrange for your group to serve on a soup kitchen roster or at a community meal center as they allow with COVID.





Troops who won't be home: Send some holiday cheer to the troops. A care package filled with holiday goodies or send a small Christmas tree, your generous gift will make their holidays a little bit brighter.

Spread some cheer: Set aside a Home Group night to write letters of appreciation to people you truly appreciate. Think about the postal service workers, maintenance workers and even your favorite barista!

Drive Thru Blessing: Pick a local Drive Thru order your meal then when you pay also pay for the person behind you or the next 2 people or the next 10 behind you. Make sure you leave a "Merry Christmas" card (no contact info just Christmas greetings) at the window, ask the cashier to put it in their bag. Pick one drive thru for each week of advent.

Send Holiday Cheer to overseas missionaries: One of the hardest times for missionaries to be overseas is the holiday season. Gather some friends and write Christmas cards to missionaries you know! Send them a care package with some seasonal gifts - canned pumpkin, stockings, and hot chocolate mix, better yet email them and ask what they need. Your simple act of generosity and thoughtfulness will lift the missionaries' spirits and make their holiday season blessed.

ADOPT A STORE: The manager at your local stores is most likely just a family man or woman trying to do his or her job with excellence—someone who could use encouragement during their most demanding time of the year. Call up a store and ask the manager if you can

bring their employees cookies or snacks to put in their break room on Black Friday or on other high-traffic selling days of the Christmas season. Write cards to the employees, thanking them for their service to the community. If you have the means to do so, provide small gifts—church mugs filled with candy or \$5 gift cards—for the employees. Let them know you're praying for them and actually set aside time to do so. When employees who always hear "the customer is always right" see strangers going out of their way to thank them during this busy season, it makes a huge impression that could very well pave the way for a gospel conversation.

A few final encouragements:

Don't make the mistake of making "missional" another thing to add to your schedule. Instead, make your existing schedule missional.

Remember we are not a church with a mission we are MISSION that has a CHURCH to fulfill it.

Listen to the Holy Spirit. He's sending you somewhere. It may be with the church proper or in a part of the city that needs you. Pause and listen.