

Hometown: On a Mission

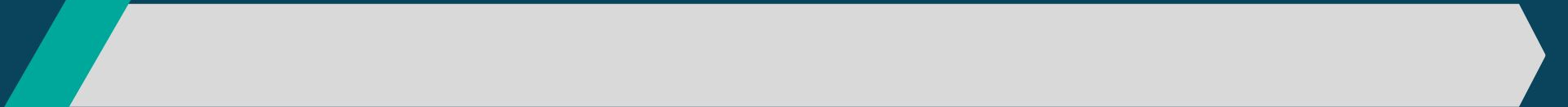
Our mission as Christians,
our mission as a church






Mission Statement

At Hometown we exist to connect people with God, with each other, and with the community



The Punchline

If we want our community to connect with God, we
need to connect with our community

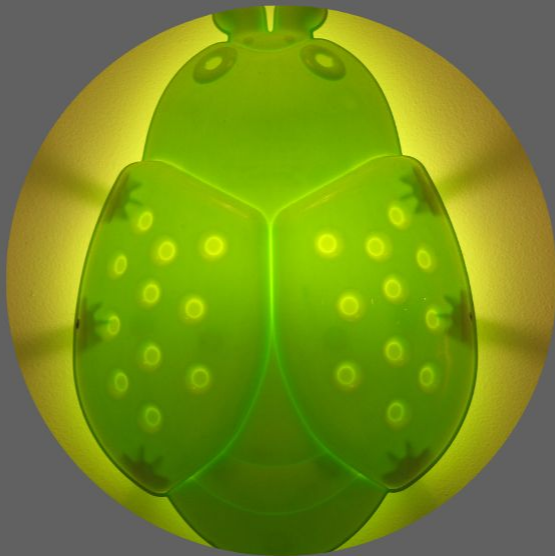



“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Be A Light


- ❑ Light is visible and attracts attention
- ❑ Be a light for our light
- ❑ There are many ways to be a light

Night-Lights






Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.




When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)


Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”




Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.



He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.



“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.



God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

See The Community

- ❑ Jesus sees the woman at the well
- ❑ Jesus knows about the woman at the well
- ❑ He offers His help

Pizza As A Community?



See The Community

- ❑ Communities are made up of people
- ❑ See them / Value them
- ❑ We can't connect to a community we don't see

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

Tell The Community

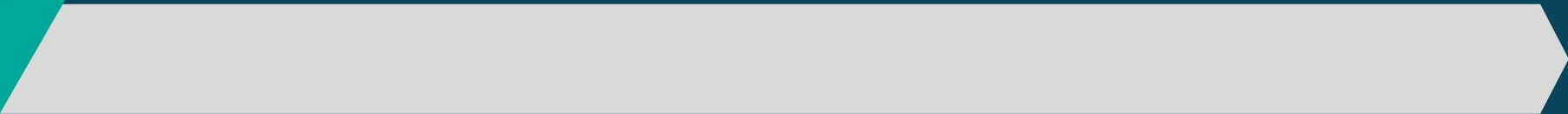
- ❑ Many believed because of her testimony
- ❑ They came to see Jesus because of what she said
- ❑ She just shared her story


Welcome To Wrexham






Tell The Community

- ☐ Tell our stories
 - ☐ Tell what Jesus has done
 - ☐ Tell people who Jesus is to you and that He can be that for them
- 



When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.



I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Serve The Community

- ❑ Jesus was serving His community
- ❑ Jesus told the disciples to be ready for humble service
- ❑ Serving is an action not a thought

Serve Like Nike

“Just Do It!!”



SERVE!!

Serve The Community

“The value of a church is not in it’s longevity but it’s love. The success of a church is not in it’s size but in it’s service to the people and the community.”

(James Bryan Smith)

Wrap Up

- ❏ We're all part of communities
- ❏ Be a light in those communities
- ❏ See them, tell them, serve them
- ❏ Connect with them

Audio file

[Connect With The Community Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

Alright so. Winning the lottery can sound cool, but then I wanna say hey, what are you gonna do with it if you can't just put it all away for yourself? Go on some cool vacation. There's nothing wrong with that. First things first. Let's get this out of the way. Ashley had a great answer about donating a lot to hometown. This is not a sermon on tithing or giving. OK, it's not. I promise. We were going the complete other direction. You're all very faithful givers. I will say, this again hometown. We are thankful that we are not. There's a lot of stresses with the small church for us. Thankfully, financial is not one of them right now because you guys are all awesome about that. So we're not going to talk about that today. We're actually going the other direction and we'll get there. I remember growing up, I grew up in a town of about 20 to 23,000 and there was one of the big jackpots was coming up. And I remember being around some of my. Friends, parents and they talked about what they were going to do if they want it. And one of the things they were going to do is give. Some of it. To the city because we had a park that had had some soccer fields, but they wanted to expand it into like a big youth Sports Complex and put up more concessions and baseball diamonds and all this kind of stuff. And what I'm getting with that is that they wanted to put the money they want back into their community, right? Giving money to the community, helping the community, being part of the community, and that's what we're going to hit on today is really connecting with our community. That's the third part of our mission statement here at hometown. We've spent the last two weeks now our third today. Going through the three parts of our. Mission statement just. By way of refresher again, our mission statement reads. It'll be up there. It's coming. There it is. At hometown, we exist to connect people with God with each other and with the community. We've done connecting with God, connecting with each other. Today we'll wrap it up with the community. Now we're all part of communities on our own right. Multiple communities for most of us, if we think about it, your neighborhood, the people you live around, that's a community, any group, you're a part of your job, maybe you don't want to think about it that way, but you are part of kind of a community with that clubs, anything like that. They're all communities. We are a church. Community as well, all of us coming together. We are a church community. We're also part of a community, the Verona community here. Hence kind of look at our name, hometown, community, Church community. It is important we meet here at the Verona Senior Center. This is kind of the Verona Community Senior Center, so we're part of the Verona community, really the surrounding areas and we want to be an active part of that and a good part of that. So today we'll talk about connecting with our own individual communities. Wherever you live, you work, you play whatever you do as well as kind of with our Verona and surrounding community. As a church and everything, we'll talk about it honestly. You can apply to both, whether it's your individual community or us as. The church's connecting with the Verona community and one of the biggest reasons I think it's really important to connect with the community, and one that I've thought about a lot is because I want other people. I want people in the Community, people I'm around to know Jesus and to love Jesus the way that I do. It's not because I want them to connect to this church and to fill up this entire room. So we have this massive. Church. That'd be cool. I'd love to have more people, but it's about the fact that I want them to know and to love God the way that

I do because of how impactful and beneficial that relationship with God has been to my life. So that's kind of we're doing. We want people to connect with God the way we do. Pretty simply, the punch line is this. If we want our community to connect with God, we need to connect with our community, right? We want the community to connect with God. No God, we have to go out and connect with that community and that will be our focus today. We're going to have a few different passages to help us walk through this kind of the theme. One is the one that's bookmarked in the Bible. Your table. It'll be Matthew 5, verses 14 through 16. We're gonna start there. You can look at it there. If you phones tablets all great. If you want to follow along that way, I'm always in the NIV translation from up here. But as always, it'll be on the screen. So we're going to. Matthew 5 verses 14 through 16. This is part of Jesus famous sermon on the Mount. So here's what he says. Matthew Vivers, 14. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand and it gives light. To everyone in the house in the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify the father in heaven or stop there. So he talks about being a Jesus, being a light, all right, being a light on a hill or things like that. So think about a light. It's visible and it attracts attention right in a dark space. If we were to turn off all the lights except for, say, maybe just the light on a camera or something like that, we're drawn to that, even if it's tiny. Because it's visible, it's attractive and we're drawn to that now as Christians. Thankfully, we have a light, our light being Jesus, Jesus is our light. What we're drawn to and attracted to and we think is awesome. So think about being a light for our light, attracting attention for Jesus being a light for Jesus. Right, not for ourselves, not for our own gain, but for Jesus. And to be seen for him. Right. Don't hide. Don't extinguish your light. The translation here we read said, you know you wouldn't put a bowl over that light. Other ones will say a bushel and the bushel went to just covered it. It would have full blown. Extinguished it and put out that light. If it was a flame. Right. Jesus saying don't do that. Be a light. Let your light shine. And the cool thing about being a light is there are a variety of ways. To do that right, there's a. Lot of lights. I was thinking about this kind of thing. I put my kid. To bed. Jeremiah and Joel are now they they like to sleep in the same room now, so they want to be by each other. This is great. They have more Night Lights than what should be possible. OK, this is not really totally OK, but we're running with it. So, Chris, come up the slide. There's a bunch of different visuals. So they legit have a lot of things that look like these. They each have. A strand of Christmas lights that runs near. Beds. They both have kind of these light up. I think that's like a Firefly or something, but Jeremiah has a light up sound making elephant that I named Edgar when he was born still has it. Joella has an owl. The things an owl, right? Yeah. I don't even know what it is. It's an owl that lights up. They both have these cool LED like flashy. Light up ones Jeremiah's a dinosaur. Joel's got a turtle. There's more. I'm blanking on some of them. There's more. Than that, right? The fact is, these all light up that room. It helps them not be scared. Right. They can see them and that's the point. So that the room is not totally dark. They can be drawn to that and not feel scared. They're all different. They'll do it in a different way, but they all give off light. There's not just one way to give off light or to be light. Now again, we have a light as Christians and as a church it's Jesus and what he's done for us. So we think about how can we now give off that light, how can we be a light to our own communities and to our church communities. And I'm going to pose three ways today that we'll. Talk about and kind of walk through and it's going to be see, tell serve. Alright, see. Tell serve. We're going to see the community. We're going to tell the community. And we're going to serve the community. So let's look at seeing the community first. This is going to be John 4, verses 4 through 26. This will be up here. I'm gonna read the whole thing. It's a little bit long, but I really like this story is the story of Jesus and a Samaritan woman at the well. So here we go. John 4/4 through

26 it says now he had to go through some area. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar near a plot of ground. Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. And Jesus higher as he was from the journey, sat down by the well it was. About noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her. Will you give me a drink? His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, you're a Jew and I'm a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink? For Jews do not associate with Samaritan. Jesus answered her. If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asked you for a drink, you would have asked him that and he would have given you living. Water, Sir, the woman said. You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us the well and Drake permit itself or himself, as did also his sons and his livestock? Jesus answered everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The woman said to him, Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming back here to draw water, he told her. Go call your husband and come back. I have no husband, she replied. Jesus said to her. You're right when you say you have no husband, the fact is you have had five husbands and the man you now the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true, Sir, the woman replied. I can see now that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain. But you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem. Woman Jesus replied, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the father. Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship, which you do not know. We worship what we do know for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the father in spirit and in truth, for they're the kind of worshippers the father seeks. God, his spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth, the woman said. I know that Messiah called Christ is coming when he comes. He will explain everything to us that Jesus declared I, the one speaking to you. And he all right? Kind of a long story. But the point is here Jesus sees this woman. This is Mary. Woman, he goes to the well and he sits to dry. And the Samaritan woman comes now. There's it. It makes a point to say it's at noon. It's the middle of the day. And this is actually important because that is the hottest part of the day and the time of day they would not come to draw water. They would come more early or later. And often times women would come draw water together. So she comes in the middle of the day and she comes by herself. A lot of the commentators believe this is probably because she was not super welcomed by others or she was looked down upon by the people in her community. Jesus sees this. Jesus knows this about this woman. Others may ignore her. He sees her, and now he engages her again a big deal. Jews and Samaritans did not talk. They didn't get along. Jews might refer to another Jewish person they don't like as a Samaritan, by way of an insult. Right. They would not have talked. Now, especially a Jewish man in a Samaritan woman? Absolutely not. But Jesus sees past all this. He sees her as a person. He knows there's something about her. When he mentions, hey, go tell your husband her response is I don't have. That might be a thing of shame for her. Right. She knows I had multiple before, and so does Jesus. Society would have seen this maybe as her fault or something wrong with her, but Jesus doesn't. He doesn't guilt her, right. He has compassion and grace for this woman. He sees her and he offers his help, his living water. He doesn't follow. And he should be. Right. He sees her for what she really is. For who she really is. She's a person. That's a part of this community. See something for what it really is. Alright, Chris, you can put up this. Next slide. Maybe that's an awkward segment we're going to talk about pizza, right? There's a piece. There's a big pizza in the middle. My favorite is bacon. Cheeseburger pizza. Right. And we look at it and it's great, right? I got all this stuff on this pizza. Maybe it's not made perfectly. It's

got uniqueness. It's not perfect, but it's a big pizza. But then when I break it down, that pizza is like a community. Why? Because it's a bunch of individual things coming together. It's got dough, it's got sauce. It's got chili. In my life, it's got bacon and beef and Peppers, maybe some jalapenos on there. OK is one thing, but it's made-up of a lot of individual parts. Jesus saw this woman, this individual ingredient, this individual part of her community. She he saw. Her cause? He gets that all the people make up the community. We need to see a community for what it is, which is a whole lot of people that make up a community. See the people value. Excuse me, the people. When we value the people of the community, we can value. The community see the needs and the struggles. See the wins and the successes. They're both there. We can see the good, great stuff. We can see the struggles and the hardships, right. We when we were in Kenosha this weekend, Ryan, Stacy and I took a little break on one of our breaks and we went and sat by. Lake MI on some. Rocks. Some super cool just to sit out there was relaxing and we saw a few boats and I remember looking at these boats and they're all different. Right. There's one big one that was kind of trucking along. There was this other little boat kind of behind it. It was much, much smaller, looked like he was trying to catch up, but it wasn't really. But that's kind of what it seemed. And then there was another one coming really slowly this way. They were all on the lake. All in the same place, but they're all different. They all their own thing going on. It's kind of like the community again, right? Verona the surrounding areas, wherever you are, your neighborhood. It's one thing, but there's so many individual different parts to it. Different people, different stories, different contexts, different lives. So see the people to see the community, be present in your community, to see them. Right, see and listen. Find the trends, find the themes. Get to know your community. Right. But we can't connect with the community that we don't see and want to get to know. So see the community first. Yes. Then tell the community that's to talk to it. That's exactly what the Samaritan woman did. We're going to read a little more about her here, she tells the community. This is John 4, now 39 through 42. So just a little bit later. Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him. Jesus, because of the woman's testimony, he told me everything I ever did. So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them and he stayed 2 days and because of his words, many more became believers. They said to the woman we no longer believe just because of what you said. Now we've heard for ourselves. And we know this man really is the savior of the world. It's as many believe because of her testimony. She talked about it. She shared it. He knew about me. She's saying he cared about me. Had this supernatural power. She shares her story and people believed because of her story. And then people went and met Jesus for themselves because of her story. Now people meeting Jesus for themselves is the most important part, right? People need to believe in Jesus. On their own, but so often that starts with hearing somebody that they know, or they see and their story about Jesus. This woman was a light. She didn't let it go out. She didn't hide it. She shared her light and noticed how she did it. She just told her story in her experience, she didn't superior to anyone. She didn't go out and condemn anyone, just like she may have gone to the people that condemned her for having multiple husbands and still just shared what Jesus did, not condemning them for anything. She just shared her story and told her story, and it brought people in. Stories are so powerful and important. I love biographies, documentaries, shows and books about athletes and musicians. Because I love to find out the story behind things right. It goes a little deeper and there's one on TV. It's actually a docu series. It's still going on. And it's called welcome to Wrexham. Some of you are familiar with some of you may not. That's OK if you're not. Wrexham is a soccer club in Wales that was really low in the tier of soccer to the point where the club and almost completely disbanded. Years ago, but with a few years ago, 2 American actors Rob McKinney. I can never say his last name right? And Ryan Reynolds bought it and they bought the team and hopes to

revitalize it and move it up. And this whole series tells the story about what they're doing. So he goes, they go and they're getting to know the community of Wrexham and you're hearing the story. Of how it came the industry, the people, and how much this soccer team means to that community, how excited they are as they got better and they have actually been promoted up to the next league, they're doing well again this year. People saw this story and then they bought in and more people watch. People want to follow it now. Players started coming to play there. The story got shared, people heard it and they bought in. So we want to share our story. How do. We do it. I think I personally it's done best in relationship and it may not always bat lead off right. You might not meet somebody. Hey, I'm Jeff. Let me tell you everything about Jesus right now. Now that may happen. I want to say it will never happen. It might, and that's awesome. But it doesn't always so much. It's through relationship. You get to know somebody and in bits and pieces you can share who Jesus. Is in your life. Right. It doesn't have to come up once. There's not a straight up cookie cutter approach. It may come at once. It may come in relationship. It might just be you have a chance. To share it for a lot of people, for some reason, when we are at our conference, we got through the story of a pastor in Vietnam who shared his story, our district. We're part of the central district here, and they're trying to launch a partnership. With churches in Vietnam. And this one pastor shared a story about how his dad was a pastor and he was a kid during the Vietnam War, and they were all inside the church. Many people had fled the community because they knew there was a strike kind of coming in. The two armies were were coming together and trying to get all the details right here and there. A number of people left in the church and an air strike happened right over the church, and it destroyed the church except for one wall. And people were killed, including two of this pastors, sisters, and his dad was injured in it and eventually died from the injuries a couple years later. So he said he's like, he blamed Americans. He didn't like Americans and kind of summing up the story. It took him a while, but he's now a pastor. And he said God showed him forgiveness towards that. He shares his story about. How he blamed them. He was madness. Totally understandable. But God got to this man and showed him forgiveness. And what that. Can look like. There's a story about forgiveness that might impact other people. Now our stories may not be at that crazy level. Mine's not. But it doesn't mean they're not impactful. For people that we get to know when I connect with people in my community through relationships, and I value whatever their story is, they have the chance that they might value my story. My story about who Jesus is to me. So share who Jesus is to you and how he can be that for them. Right. So we see the community, we tell the community, we serve the Community, John 13:12 through 17 says when he had finished washing their feet. This is Jesus. He put on his clothes and returned to his place. Do you understand what I've done for you? He asked them. You call me teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that's why. I am now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet. You should also wash one another's feet. I've set you an example that you could do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master. Nor is the messenger greater than the one who sent them. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. Jesus washes his disciples feet and this would have completely thrown them off. This was completely backwards from how things went in this day, right? The teacher leader master did not do the serving. Hierarchical societies biblical. He would have been up here. They have been down here. Yet he comes down here. To wash their feet. Why? Because Jesus was different. Jesus was about serving. Humility mattered to Jesus. He was telling his disciples be ready for humble service. You, my disciples, need to be about others and serving others. He's saying do that and be blessed. But do it he saying serving as an action, right? It's nice to know we're supposed to serve and have that in the back of our minds, but we need to do it. Act on it. I had to come back to the Nike slogan again. Just do it right. This

was a phrase coined in 1988 by Dan Wieden, and he's like it was targeted to everyone because there were other athletic companies that were targeting. Athletes and they were tying fitness professionals and all this kind of stuff, but like man, we need something every day for the everyday person to be able to just get past any uncertainty and he struggles and he just I don't want to just. Do it. Act on whatever it is you need to do so well, just do it is not necessarily biblical. I think it plays here for serving our community. Just do it, understand the needs and how you're going to do it. But then for real go do it. So how do we do this? For our own individual communities, you know, for your neighborhoods, your workplaces, your clubs, that depends. It depends on the needs of. Community serving should meet the needs of the people you're serving, not your own need to feel important or your own need to tell people about it, but for the actual needs of the community you're serving. Serving as others focused so as an individual, it's about the needs you see in your community for the church. I think it's important to first remember. How important it is that we serve author James Brian Smith in his book The Good and Beautiful community has a quote that says the value of a church is not in its longevity, but its love. The success of a church and not is not in its size, but in its service to the people in the community. That's the value that's the success is how well are we serving the people. And I love that quote. I love that book. So do it. So I was at hometown practically just talk through a few things. We've done a couple months ago. We did a school supply drive. We knew there was a need for kids in the Verona community that weren't able to buy their own school supplies. Thankfully, Ryan knows one of the principals at one of the elementary schools. She gave us their list here. The things we need and we were able to put a drive together to donate some of those. We've done it for two years. We'll do it again next year. Our Meadow Ridge ministry, that's Stacy talked about here. We were told about a need about it was last January. The woman that runs this ministry for Good Shepherd Lutheran here in town reached out and said, hey, we've been doing this at the library. It's super helpful to these kids. They hang out there, they do their homework. And the snacks have really helped. But we need some help providing it. And you help. Thankfully, we were able to say yes and be a part of it and it's awesome. I can tell you I hear from her how impactful it is for these kids. Every time she sends us numbers about how many kids. It's a safe place for them. It's a place where we can help them get food and to do their work. We're able to serve that way. Third one I want to run through is trunk or treat trunk or treat and we've done the last two years right out in that parking lot around the Halloween time where we have cars with games and we have. Andy and we have hot dogs and we have music and we have a tent in the middle with like coloring and contests and all this stuff and we've estimated. We changed the number a lot, but what probably a couple hundred kids each year I think have come through here, right? So there's a touch point with 200 kids and their families that just get something for free that's safe. That's something to do when it's. Good for. Now this event is coming up soon. October 29th. Shameless plug. Year it's October 29th. Coming up, we're going to talk more about it starting next week. But Julie, overseas that and we'd love it if you would all participate, either. Just asking what you can do to help or the big one is having your. Car in a game at it. Julie runs that be really cool if when she comes out of kids Ministry later, you'll school but barter and say, Julie, I wanna. Help I wanna help. I wanna help right. She'd be like overwhelmed by that. But either way. If you can't help with that, but it's just an event where we can have a bunch of people come in and. It's just about them. It's just free and it's fun. So we're serving the community. Its service is so important and it's super impactful in our communities. We're here to help our communities. We want to be a part of that individually in your own and also here as a church. And we follow Jesus by doing that. So again, we're all part of different communities. What I'm encouraging you to do is to be active in them, be present, be there, see them. Be a light. Be a light for Jesus in those communities and

see them. Tell them about Jesus. Serve them how Jesus would, because we want our communities to know and connect with God and I really want that and we need to connect with our communities. Let's pray. Guy, thank you for today. Got to thank. You that you sent your son and that he was. So focused on others. He gives us that example of serving and loving other peoples, and it's one that we can follow. So, God, I pray that we would. First off, we would be willing. To be a light for you, God. That we wouldn't hide it. That we would be willing to let it be seen, and then we would see those around us see them for who they are. And God, that when the when when you put it on our hearts, when you put us in the situation that we would tell them about you. Or that we would show them about you by how we live. Other than that, we would surf. We would see any needs that are there, big or small, and we would. Find a way to help. So we thank you again for the example that you've given us for the words you've given us and for the communities we are in that we can serve and connect with your name. Amen.