



## What Does Being a Good Neighbor Look Like?

What does it mean to be a good neighbor?

It means seeing Christ in everyone you meet. You may not like them, they may have rubbed you the wrong way, been inconsiderate or hurt you or someone you love – however, God still calls us to seek the good in them.

Being a good neighbor sometimes means stepping outside of your comfort zone and sticking up for someone who is different. Someone who doesn't dress like you; someone who sounds or looks different than you do; someone who isn't able to do the same things you are able to do; and many times, it's someone who comes from a different socioeconomic background. Love is a universal language. Your smile speaks volumes and shows your true spirit and heart.

As we focus on stewardship – sharing our time, talent and treasure – let's reflect on how you can move from simply

“doing good” for your neighbor, to actually *making a difference* in their lives. Here are some ways you can be that **Good Samaritan**:

**Be an example...  
Show kindness to unkind people.  
Forgive people who don't deserve it.  
Love unconditionally.  
Your actions always reflect who you are.**

- Volunteer at a local food kitchen and serve those less fortunate. Make eye contact, smile and show compassion.
- Deliver meals to shut ins (Meals on Wheels) – take time to ask, ‘how are you doing’ and then hear their response. Let them know you care.
- Become a volunteer with Special Olympics – be a coach, a referee, work at the concession stand – get involved and show kindness.
- Volunteer at schools – take an active role to read to children, volunteer in after-school programs, offer to tutor a teen struggling in a subject you hold dear.
- Become a Big Brother or Big Sister – get involved on a personal level, share your gifts and experiences with someone who is completely different from you.

Written by Bernadette Lawson, a member of our Stewardship Committee

### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

**25** And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, **“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”** **26** He said to him, **“What is written in the law? How do you read?”** **27** And he answered, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”** **28** And he said to him, **“You have answered right; do this, and you will live.”**

**29** But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, **“And who is my neighbor?”** **30** Jesus replied, **“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, **34** and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** And the next day he took out two denarii<sup>[a]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ **36** Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”** **37** He said, **“The one who showed mercy on him.”** And Jesus said to him, **“Go and do likewise.”**