

#LOVEYOUDESMOINES

BLOCK PARTY HOST *tips*

Thank you so much for loving your neighbors by hosting a mini block party! What a fun and meaningful way to say we Love You Des Moines. We cannot wait to see how God works through you.

Here are a few tips as you get ready...

Pick the date and time

Our official Block Party Days for everyone at Valley Church are August 10 to the 16. But of course, if that date doesn't work well for you, choose another time!

Decide what kind of mini block party you want to host

There are so many simple and fun (and socially distanced) ways you can build relationships with neighbors! Here are some ideas:

- Popsicle party
- Neighborhood scavenger hunt
 - Hotdog cookout
 - Popcorn party
 - Yard game hangout
- Coffee (or tea) and chat
 - Root beer float party
 - Ice cream social
- Water party (sprinkler, slip 'n slide or water guns)
 - Neighborhood bike ride
- Skate night (roller blades, scooters, skateboards)
 - Sidewalk chalk party
 - Game night

It doesn't have to be complicated, expensive or time-consuming. It's all about spending time together building relationships! Need a little help to make it even easier? Ask another neighbor to host with you. That can be another great way to deepen an relationship.

Invite your neighbors

A personal invitation goes a long way, so consider ringing the doorbell and introducing yourself to neighbors you haven't met before. Check out the printable block party invitation template on the last page!

Remind your neighbors

If it's been awhile since you delivered invitations, you may want to choose a way to remind people a couple days before your mini block party. Here are some ideas:

- Post a reminder note in a visible place where people tend to congregate like a playground or mailboxes (if it's allowed, of course)
- Create a reminder sign to post in your yard or driveway (saying something like Neighborhood Ice Cream Social here this Wednesday at 6:30PM")
 - Post to your neighborhood Facebook page, if your neighborhood has one
 - Write sidewalk chalk reminders on sidewalks around the neighborhood
- Take a family walk through the neighborhood and re-invite anyone you see on your walk

Pray!

We know God can do great things when we live out his command to love our neighbors! Begin praying for your neighbors and the time together. You can even consider praying as you walk through the neighborhood delivering invitations. Check out the prompts you can use as you pray on the following pages!

Post your photos

Snap some photos from your mini block party and use #LoveYouDSM to add them to the conversation about Love You Des Moines. We're excited to see photos from neighborhoods all around the community!

Don't stress, just love!

Mini block parties are all about building relationships. You can do that with something as simple as popsicles, coffee, a sprinkler or just about anything else. You can do that whether several people show up or only a couple! In the words of Kristin Schell, author of the Turquoise Table, here's what it takes to make a difference in your neighborhood: "Notice. Pray. Show up. Love... Love adds up. Love spreads. Love builds community."

If you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to lisal@valleycommunitycenterdm.com.

Thank you again for celebrating and loving your neighbors!

Neighborhood *prayers*

“Can it be that God will actually move into our neighborhood? Why the cosmos itself isn’t large enough to give You breathing room ... Even so, I’m bold to ask: Pay attention to these my prayers...” 1 Kings 8:27

Peace in the homes of my neighbors.

(Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 5:33 & 6:1-4)

Dear Lord, I pray that You would bring peace into the homes of this neighborhood.

I pray that where there is discord, pain, or darkness – You would bring reconciliation, healing, and light. In trials, bring a peace that surpasses understanding. In sin, shine Your Light to drive the darkness away. In all things and in every home, reveal Yourself as the Healer, and Reconciler, and Restorer.

Shine Your healing Light in: broken marriages, loneliness, abuse, illness, anxiety, fear, and everything else that is robbing my neighbors of Your Peace.

Peace in my neighbors’ relationships with others.

(Colossians 3:12-15)

Dear Lord, I pray that You would move into this neighborhood people who know and love and live for You. Clothe them with mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Most of all, clothe them with love for You and love for Your people – a love that acts courageously and sacrificially on behalf of others and leads them to Your saving love.

Lord, I pray You would move into this neighborhood people who are seeking and hungry for You. Meet the lonely, the angry, the tempted, the fearful, the tired, and the lost where they are and lead them to Yourself. Let the ways they have strayed away from You only serve to make them even hungrier and ready for You.

Lord, I pray You would remove and keep out all evil. Let my neighbors be caught in disobedience. Let my neighbors fail in independence. Let my neighbors see the lies and illusions that this world feeds to them.

Blessings of safety, health, wisdom, work and salvation for my neighbors.

(Psalm 34:7; Proverbs 2:1-11; Ephesians 1:16-18; Psalm 90:17; Acts 26:18)

Dear Lord, please bless my neighbors with:

- Safety. Keep my neighbors safe. Guard and defend the weak. Let their homes be safe havens. Health. Let my neighbors see and experience Your healing power.
- Wisdom. Plant in the hearts of my neighbors the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom – so that they will understand what is right, just, and fair, and be able to find the right way to go. Let wise choices watch over my neighbors and understanding keep them safe. Grant them spiritual understanding to grow in their knowledge of You. Flood their hearts with light so they can understand the confident hope and glorious inheritance You give.
- Work. Bless my neighbors with work to provide for the needs of their own family and have enough to share with others. Establish the work of their hands.
- Salvation. Open the eyes of my neighbors. Turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, so that they will receive forgiveness of sin and a place among those who are saved by faith in Jesus.

God's Decree: "Shout and celebrate, Daughter of Zion! I'm on my way. I'm moving into your neighborhood!" Zechariah 2:10



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Hope you can join us!

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SUMMER



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WHERE:

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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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