

5VSO :PVS \$IVSDI

INTO A CENTER FOR BLESSING

NOTE: None of these ideas helps unless you actively, intentionally invite people God has placed in life, in your wider community and on the margins of your church's life.

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1. Special Guest Sundays (*aka Plus-One Sundays or Plus-One Events*)
2. Large meals in the parish hall, like a crawfish boil, BBQ, catfish fry
3. Outdoor concert for your community
4. Concert inside the church, highlighting local musicians
5. Thanksgiving meal open to all
6. Seminars and community forums on issues relevant to neighborhood, with an expert (*who might also be a member*) speaking on topics like how to raise a child, financial health, navigating tax season in peace, etc.
7. Marriage Enrichment seminars
8. Movie night, including a speaker linking film to faith
9. Mardi Gras party
10. "Engaging the Questions" Forum: Have a speaker engage top questions people ask about the Christian faith: Is there a God? If God is good why is there so much suffering in the world? Who was Jesus? etc.
11. Valentine's Dance with short talk on God, who is Love
12. Youth rallies or sports parties
13. Business peoples' luncheons, with a speaker and/or music during work week
14. Free or reduced-price spa day, with or without a speaker
15. Art shows, where the church showcases the work of local artists
16. Poetry readings
17. Theatrical presentations
18. Animal blessings
19. Health-screening event at your church, including flu shots, cholesterol checks, mammogram, cardiograms
20. Community fair/carnival: Fall Festival, a Christmas Fun Day, Spring Fling, Safe Halloween party, All Saints celebration
21. Sports clinics
22. Mother's Day or Father's Day banquet
23. Neighborhood block party
24. Evangelistic Carol service and Christmas concert/musical
25. Easter drama
26. Community picnic, inviting neighbors to join and eat
27. Athletic event, as in, take church and friends to baseball game
28. Community marathon or walkathon, to raise money for good causes
29. Arts and crafts fair
30. Cultural celebration of congregation's diversity, featuring music, food, dance
31. Cooking school with a short talk about "Bringing more flavor to your life"
32. Wine tastings, with or without a speaker
33. Book discussion
34. Film night with discussion
35. Coffee house at church, with music and/or poetry reading and testimony
36. Host church book club at local coffee house, and buy coffee

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