NEIGHBORS NEWS

August 2026



A Moment of Reflection

In January 2017, a group of people came together to bring a meaningful and loving church to the Fallbrook area of northwest Lincoln. They envisioned a church that believes in a deep and simple approach to loving God, loving ourselves, and loving our neighbors.

Early in discussions, the name "Neighbors" was proposed and it quickly stuck. The name implies a shared, foundational belief about the essence of this church. It is intended to teach us to love our neighbor as Christ loves us. However, the idea of "neighbors" surprisingly didn't just come from the Bible. It came from a neighbor you'll likely remember from your childhood. Fred Rogers, aka Mister Rogers of *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, spent decades creating his "neighborhood," a place in which all people could feel loved and accepted regardless of flaws, fears, or faults. "Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like 'struggle.' To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now." – Fred Rogers

In August 2026, nearly 10 years later, we continue to live our mission:

To be a friendly and light-hearted group of people who love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbors. All neighbors.

We are a neighborhood of inclusion and kindness, building lasting relationships over a warm cup of coffee (and a pastry), grace, and the love of Jesus Christ.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Pray and Play
Children and Youth (K-12)

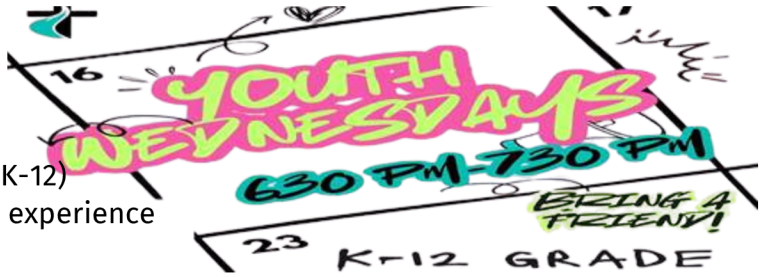
Around the Table
Monthly Potluck Dinner

The Good Neighbor Project
Serving at Matt Talbot

Mamba Mayhem
3-on-3 Basketball

Generosity in a Time of Transition

Pray and Play



Monthly, beginning Wednesday, August 19, 6:30pm

We are excited to create a place where children and youth (K-12) from our neighborhood and beyond can connect, grow, and experience the love of Jesus together.

Our Wednesday night ministry will be built on two simple ideas: ***Pray and Play.*** We will pray through scripture, prayer, and meaningful conversations about faith. We will also play because following Jesus is the greatest adventure of our lives. We hope Wednesday nights are filled with laughter, friendships, encouragement, and opportunities to discover God's love.

Spread the word! Invite children, youth, families, friends, and neighbors to join us as we begin this exciting new ministry. **We can't wait to see what God does through Pray & Play at Neighbors Church!**

If you have a heart for investing in the next generation, please text Pastor Jay at 402-202-0759 to volunteer.



Around the Table potlucks are scheduled for the next three months, each at 6:00pm. We'll provide reminders for each as they get closer.

- **Wednesday, August 26:** Second round of Game Night (bring your favorite game)
- **Wednesday, Septermber 23:** Music Bingo
- **Wednesday, October 21:** Halloween fun and wear your favorite costume if you wish.

Prior to each potluck you will be sent a message to sign up for a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert. Didn't sign up??? ***Come anyway and bring whatever you'd like.***

All are welcome! **Please join us at the table!!**

The Good Neighbor Project

Loving our neighbors. Serving our community. Sharing the hope of Christ.

Serve at Matt Talbot Kitchen
August 18, 5:00 - 6:30pm

We are looking for 6-8 volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. If you're interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jay at jay@neighborscommunity.org or sign up on Sunday morning!

We will be serving the third Tuesday of every month, so if you can't join us in August, please join us in the future!

Together, let's be good neighbors by serving our community with compassion, hospitality, and the love of Christ.

matt talbot
kitchen & outreach

HOPE LIVES HERE



Think you've got what it takes?

Gather your team and compete
for the first-ever

Mamba Mayhem Championship!

Named in honor of the late, great Kobe Bryant and his legendary Mamba Mentality, this fast-paced 3-on-3 tournament is a fundraiser benefiting Neighbors Church.



TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Pool Play
Monday, August 24, beginning 6pm
Teams are guaranteed three games during pool play.

Championship Night
Monday, August 31, beginning 6pm
All games will be played in the gym at Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 A St.

The top two teams from each of the three pools will advance to the championship bracket on August 31. They'll compete in a single-elimination tournament—March Madness style—for the Mamba Mayhem title.

Game Format

- Half-court 3-on-3 basketball
- First team to 24 points wins, or the team leading when the 24-minute game clock expires
- All baskets are worth 1 or 2 points
- If teams are tied in the standings after pool play, point differential will determine which team advances

Registration

- 12 teams total
- $100 per team
- All proceeds benefit Neighbors Church

To register your team, text Pastor Jay Stewart at 402-202-0759.



Grab your teammates, bring your competitive spirit, and see if your team has the Mamba Mentality to become the inaugural Mamba Mayhem Champions!

GENEROSITY IN A TIME OF TRANSITION

**To ignite the fires of generosity we must begin to see giving as more than just an act.
It is the compulsion of the heart!
We don't become generous by simply giving more, but by caring more.
Generosity does not originate in the hand, but in the heart!**

Tim Jennings, *A Spirit of Generosity*

For a church less than 10 years old, transition has been the name of the game. We started in homes, then a restaurant, then the clubhouse of an apartment building, then a school gymnasium, and finally our location at 505 Fallbrook Blvd. And just as we were getting settled in our new location, COVID hit. We were shut down many months over a two year period. Yet, we are still here. We are the only new start-up church out of 20 (funded by the Great Plains Annual Conference and the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation) that still exists. And we don't just exist; we have thrived.

Yet we are still transitioning. Our funding from grant sources was designed to decline over the years, ending in 2023. At the same time, giving from Neighbors members steadily increased. Due to careful management of funds over the years, we ended 2023 with a carryover of $70,000, and as a result we were able to balance our budgets in 2024 and 2025 when we had no grant funding.

Currently in 2026, giving has not kept up with expenses, and we have nearly expended our carryover resources. At the end of July, our expenses exceeded our income by $32,404,06. The Leadership Team is working on multiple fronts; grant funding, fund-raising activities and events, outreach to potential donors, and more. We are 100% confident that we will meet this year's goals, but these funding options are not available immediately.

Many of us give our gifts at the end of the year or we give quarterly. We ask you to carefully consider what you might give to Neighbors in the coming weeks/months to once again take us through a transition.

If you've attended Sunday worship services the past month, you know there is incredible energy. Leadership Team meetings have incredible energy. Even potluck dinners have incredible energy..

We will not only survive; we will thrive--because we are Neighbors and we have heart!! Thank you for caring!

Squeezing Lemons for God

The strongman at a circus squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He then said to the audience, "I will offer $200 to anyone in the audience who can squeeze another drop from this lemon." A scholarly looking woman came forward, picked up the lemon, strained hard and managed to get a drop.

The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman and asked, "What is the secret of your strength?"

"Practice," the woman answered. "I was the treasurer of a church for 32 years!"



NEIGHBORS CHURCH

WAYS TO GIVE

CASH OR CHECK

You may drop your gift in the giving box at Neighbors or mail or bill pay your check to:
Neighbors Church
575 Fallbrook Blvd, Ste 102
Lincoln, NE 68521

ONLINE GIVING

Electronic giving is secure, quick and easy to set up using a debit or credit card or your bank account. You can give a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift through our secure online giving platform. Make your gift at https://www.neighborscommunity.org/give-2/

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

- Stock Giving
  We will work wtih you via NUMF to facilitate a gift of stocks using this form.
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)
  Request from your IRA custodian a QCD be sent to Neighbors UMC - EIN 81-5310415
- Donor Advised Funds
  Recommend a grant from your DAF to be sent to Neighbors UMC - EIN 81-5310415
- Matching Gifts
  If you are eligible for matching gifts via your employer or other organization (such as Thrivent), follow their process to request a match.

Contact us at info@neighborscommunity.org if you have any questions about how to make your gift.

Planned Giving

If you would like to remember Neighbors with a future gift in your will or trust, we can provide you and your attorney the correct language to direct your gift. You can also designate a partial beneficiary designation of your retirement accounts or life insurance policies.

NEIGHBORS PRAYER TEAM

...would be honored to pray for you and for others who need special prayers.
On Sundays, you can fill out a green prayer card on your table and either leave it on the table or drop it in the prayer box on our Generosity Table.
You also can send a prayer request to: info@neighborscommunity.org.





CANS FOR KIDS

Bring your cans to Neighbors Church! We are collecting aluminum to help fund special programs. Bring your shopping bags filled with clean aluminum, drop them in the bin down the hall, and we'll take care of the rest!

QUARTERS FROM HEAVEN

Got any spare change? Bring it to Neighbors Church! We're collecting coins to help us build a steady fund to be used for people in need. Just bring your change and drop it off by our Generosity Table.





Another way you can help is to spread the word about this wonderful church. Like and subscribe to our Facebook and YouTube pages and invite your friends and family to join you at Neighbors Church!

NEIGHBORS CONNECT

Scan here to find out about opportunities to connect with your Neighbors Church community!