



SERVE



NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS,

What are the needs in your community?

Amid the busyness of our everyday lives, it's easy to forget to lift our eyes to the problems that our neighbors face. Too often, we miss the reality that families are hurting, that communities are suffering, that so many around us need the hope of the gospel.

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus gives this command to His disciples: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." N.C. Baptists are on mission together because we want everyone to give glory to our Father in heaven. When we shine God's light in our communities, we give people a glimpse at the love God has for us, communities experience the transformative power of God's grace, and God gets all the glory.

What would it look like for all of us to lift our eyes to the needs of our communities and give people the light of the gospel through acts of service?

During ServeNC Week, let's be on mission together by committing to ServeNC, a weeklong emphasis where churches show Christ's love through service projects in their local neighborhoods. Through ServeNC, we have the opportunity to give communities the hope of the gospel while meeting real, physical needs — whether that's by giving away food, building ramps, collecting school supplies or something unique to your area.

Imagine what it would look like if every church took one week to serve their community. Imagine what could happen when each county in North Carolina encounters the light of the gospel through our service.

We would love for you to join us as we commit to ServeNC. Wherever your church is in the process, we want to help you take the next step in reaching out to serve.

We hope the resources provided in this kit prove invaluable to you as you make plans leading up to ServeNC Week. For additional resources and information, be sure to visit servenc.com, where your church can commit to participate if they have not already done so.

Thank you for being a light in the darkness.
Thank you for your commitment to serve N.C.

On mission together,



Todd Unzicker
Executive Director-Treasurer
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina





EVERY CHURCH EVERY COMMUNITY

ServeNC Week

WHAT CAN YOUR CHURCH DO TO MEET THE NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Sign up and commit your church to one week of being on mission together. Let's make a huge impact serving from the mountains to the coast. Visit ServeNC.com to sign up and receive resources, tools and more.



*scan to
visit
website*



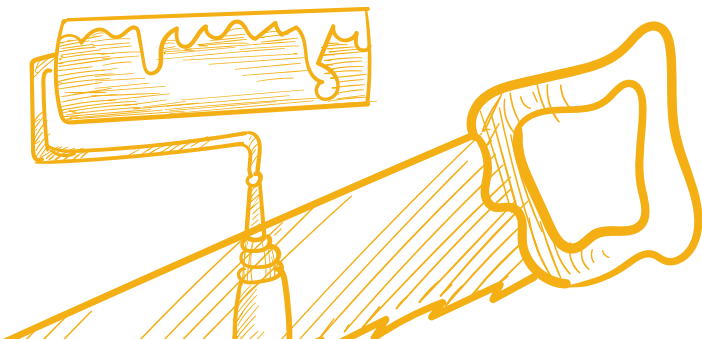
10 WAYS TO SERVE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Your church knows your community best.

What unique challenges is your neighborhood facing? Where can your church step in and serve?

Here are some ideas to get you started as you plan to ServeNC.

1. Offer free lawn mowing and landscaping services.
2. Collect school supplies for children in need.
3. Serve at your local pregnancy center.
4. Build wheelchair ramps for those with disabilities.
5. Deliver lunches to the homeless.
6. Deliver homemade baked goods to public service workers.
7. Host a free yard sale in your church's neighborhood.
8. Check and install fire alarms in homes.
9. Host a community health fair.
10. Serve at a local food bank.



NC Baptists partner with ministries around the state. Your church can connect with them for more opportunities.

The Pregnancy Network

thepregnancynetwork.org

The Pregnancy Network is a Christian, multi-denominational organization that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies. Churches can serve by providing refreshments and setting up for classes, hosting baby showers, assisting with office administration and cleaning, or assembling “blessing boxes” for expectant mothers.

Baptist Aging Ministries

ncbam.org

The North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry helps adults ages 65+ maintain independence and enjoy quality of life. Churches can help build a ramp, serve on a care team, or encourage callers by providing a listening, compassionate ear through the Hope Line.

Baptist Children's Homes

bchfamily.org

Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) cares for children, adults and families across the state, and hosts several “Friends of Children” workdays at statewide locations. Churches can take on landscaping, flooring, painting, construction, pressure washing and other projects. BCH also holds an annual Food Roundup. Church groups can volunteer at pick up locations to pack and load items onto delivery vehicles.

A GUIDE TO GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY & DISCOVERING NEEDS

ServeNC can and will look different for every church in every community across North Carolina. Your local church knows your ministry context best. Here are some questions to ask as you plan to serve.

How is our church currently serving our community?

- Do we have connections with local schools, food pantries or pregnancy centers?

What are our members passionate about?

- Who is equipped to lead or participate?

What ministries or agencies exist in our community?

- Who is already doing established, effective work?
- Can we partner with them?

Who makes up our community?

- Children, students, senior adults? Single parents? Immigrants and refugees?
- What do they say are the biggest needs?
- Have we connected with local government leaders? What do they want to see addressed?
- What do first responders observe and understand about the community?
- What do teachers and school administrators observe?

What needs remain unmet?

- Are the homes, schools, playgrounds or other buildings in good shape?
- Where do people meet?
- What can we learn about our community history?
- What resources does the local library offer?

Who from our church will be able to serve?

- Can Sunday school classes, small groups, youth groups or families serve together?

What tools and resources will we need? What do we already have?

- Is there an empty or spacious classroom we can use to store donations?
- What can we put our missions offering toward?

As we prayer walk and drive around our community, where is God guiding us?

- What can we see with His eyes?

PRAYER IS OUR FIRST AND PRIMARY STRATEGY. IT SHAPES EVERYTHING WE DO.

After Jesus preached His first sermon (Luke 4:18-19), He began meeting needs around Him (Luke 4:33-39). By seeing the gospel, people were better able to hear the gospel. Jesus taught His followers to help the poor, the lame and the blind because “they cannot repay you” (Luke 14:13-14). He sends His followers to do the same – to love those that can’t pay them back.

As your church makes plans to ServeNC, pray early and pray often for God to transform every church and every community through this effort.

PRAY ...

1. **That God would lead** your church to see the unseen and serve the underserved
2. **That God would turn** your eyes toward the community and show you ways to meet their needs
3. **That God would help** your church recognize the abilities and resources He has given, and discern how to best use them to serve your community
4. **For help** for every member to identify their role in serving
5. **For your community** to see the church as Jesus’ hands and feet
6. **That God would use** your church to reach the lost in your community with the gospel
7. **For relief to those in need** and freedom from the burden of sin

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE

Thanks for your commitment to #ServeNC! We can't wait to see what God does in your community through your local church.

Are you ready to celebrate and tell this story?

PLAN.

This guide is for you.

1. It's not too early to start telling your church about #ServeNC.
2. Download graphics and sample captions for your church communication needs on ServeNC.com. Go ahead and schedule posts on your social media calendars.

PROMOTE.

Copy, paste, fill in the blank.

1. Other promotional items, such as posters and bulletin inserts, are available at ServeNC.com.
2. If needed, request training with the Marketing and Communications group. Email communications@ncbaptist.org.

POST.

Take it to the next level.

Leading up to and during the week of your ServeNC project, here are some helpful tips:

1. Tag:
@Church_name
@ncbaptist
@individual
@organization
2. Hashtag:
#ServeNC
#OnMissionTogether
3. Post creative content
 - Reels
 - Photos



CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Celebrate God's work in your church and your community through ServeNC! Consider hosting a ServeNC celebration on the Sunday following your service project.

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell about all his wondrous works!" Psalm 105:1-2

Your church can include:



Testimonies

Invite members who participated in ServeNC to share stories of how they saw God at work during the week.



Statistics

Celebrate the lives impacted by ServeNC! Share highlights from the week, like how many ramps were built, classrooms painted, meals served, etc.



Photos and Videos

Share snapshots in a slideshow and through your church's online communication. Don't forget to use the hashtag #ServeNC and tag @ncbaptist on social media so we all can celebrate with your church!



Prayer

Continue to pray for people you met during ServeNC and for the relationships your church can develop with the community. Pray for more opportunities for gospel conversations.