

# NOTES FROM CHERYL - MAY 2026

## **11 Ways to Share Jesus with Those Who Don't Care About Church (Article on SermonCentral.com)**

Evangelism isn't what it used to be. In a culture marked by apathy instead of hostility, the biggest barrier to sharing the gospel may be that we don't know our own neighbors. Here are 11 practical, relational ways to reach people for Christ in a post-Christian world – through prayer, integrity, generosity, and everyday conversations that reflect the love of Jesus. It's not about gimmicks or quick conversions. It's about being the church before asking people to go to church.

Why don't people want to go to church today? They're not angry, they're apathetic. The critical first element isn't the invitation; it's having the friend who makes the invitation. The biggest roadblock to evangelism today may be as simple and as sad as this: we don't know our neighbors like we used to. In one survey, 20 percent of Americans say they don't know any Christians.

People become willing to consider Jesus when they like and trust the Christians they know. People need to know us before they can trust us. And they need to trust us before they'll go to church with us. People need to be the church, or see us being the church, before they'll go to church. What does that look like?

1. Pray for them. Not in the “You're in my thoughts and prayers” way, but make it a priority to pray for our unchurched family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.
2. Build relationships with no strings attached. When people don't want to be recruited, stop recruiting and love them. Let Jesus do the rest.
3. Play the long game.
4. Live with integrity. Trust is easy to lose and hard to gain. Even harder to earn back.
5. Talk about life, not just about your church.

6. Stop connecting faith to politics and denominations. Stop making Jesus so small. Not every Christian shares the same political views.
7. Be more joyful, less mean. Live joyfully. It's deeper than niceness, stronger than meanness, and rabidly contagious.
8. Live a life of scandalous generosity.
9. Be authentic, even if it means being different. It is better to be relevant than stale, but it's better to be authentic than relevant. For the best example of how to do this, look at the life of Jesus.
10. Be available. Most people who come to Jesus as adults do so because of trauma. God hard-wired us to reach out for help when bad things happen. People don't reach out to a church when they're hurting; they reach out to a friend. When people are hurting, be available and let Jesus do the rest.
11. Make fewer statements; have more conversations. That means listening. Jesus had small conversations. On big subjects. The best on-ramp for breaking through the apathy barrier is showing people that you care. And the best way to start doing that is to listen.

# Save the Date



Where? **First United Methodist - Commerce**

When? **July 13-16**

What time? **9AM-NOON**

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