



# THE CHURCH

## We Serve Together

By Jon Merkling

Have you ever been on a mission trip? Or done a service project with a group? One of my favorite trips I ever went on was to serve in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. My college ministry sent a big group down to New Orleans to help with cleanup and construction. We cleaned up the wreckage where homes had been completely destroyed, put a new floor in a church building, and put new roofs on several houses. It was exhausting work, but something interesting happened on that trip: I got to know the people I served in a deep, meaningful way. There was something about serving in that way that brought us together in a way I had never experienced before.

When it comes to our church, serving brings us together in a similar but even deeper way. My trip to New Orleans was over in just a few days, but our church family is here all the time. The church is rooted in the community, and full of people with who we can have lasting relationships. Serving together as part of the church body then is just that much more powerful!

How does this play out in our church? There are plenty of opportunities to serve. You can serve in the kids' ministry, teaching kids, holding babies, or simply just checking people in and greeting new families. You can help play music, run sound, disciple teenagers, or make food for college students. You can show up a little early just to talk with new people. You can help serve communion, or get coffee prepped to serve before worship. You can join the prayer team. Or come play with kids on the Eastside on Tuesday nights. The opportunities are endless!

We can also serve one another by visiting others to the hospital, organizing meals after a new baby, helping people move, or providing rides to the airport. And in your own communities, there are several ways to serve together: shared mission projects, reaching out to neighbors, or through inviting people for meals. Through serving together, friendships form, relationships are deepened, and discipleship happens as church members share experiences together.

The church is Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27) and we are fellow workers in God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 3:9). Therefore, we have the privilege of serving God by working alongside each other to serve those in and outside the body. And by doing so, we can develop deep, meaningful relationships that can only happen by working together, shoulder to shoulder. So, if you are a church member, let's serve God together! Find a place to serve and dig in! If you are not a member, we invite you to be part of the family, and serve God with us!

**Ephesians 2:10** - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*