**Serve Day Vision and FAQ**

**May 2020**

**Overall Vision:**

SERVE Day is a one-day event on July 11th and is part of the Summer Group Semester. It provides an opportunity for all of us to show our communities that they matter to us, and they matter to God.

**2020 Plan:**

Summer Groups are encouraged to choose their own service project by identifying an organization or individual that they could serve by meeting a need they have or encouraging them, or adopt a campus identified project. For guests who are not in a Group, we will offer service opportunities to do “on your own” or “with your family”. These will be offered through the directory.

*Bottom line: In light of the on-going Coronavirus pandemic and its impact, the plan is to limit Serve Day projects to Summer Groups choosing a project and not adding additional people to their Group to complete it. Individuals not in Groups will be able to choose Serve Day opportunities from the directory that they can do ”on their own” or “with their family”. The plan for right now is to not offer opportunities to guests that gather a large crowd. While this remains an ever-changing situation, this plan for now allows us to move forward in some way.*

**Goals:**

* To show the love of Christ to our communities in a real and tangible way.
* For Groups to identify opportunities where they can serve their community, plan a serve project, and serve on July 11th.
* To give everyone at CedarCreek, whether they are part of a group or not, an opportunity to make a difference on Serve Day on their own or with their family.
* For participants who have a passion for serving to consider starting an outreach group next semester.
* To see every staff member champion serving others on Serve Day by participating in a project or leading a project.
* Tangible Results. At the end of Serve Day, we will gather stories and data from project leaders and participants. The purpose of this is to celebrate and share the story of Serve Day. It is also to help us plan for the future, and connect with guests that want to take next steps in the area of outreach.

**When:**

* Saturday, July 11 (Project times will vary)

**Where:**

* Serve Day will take place is NW Ohio/SE Michigan
* Serve Day projects will serve in neighborhoods helping those that have a need, at businesses or organizations in our community where we have influence, or in areas that we are passionate about.

**Who:**

* Every Group for summer semester is invited to be a part of Serve Day through a self-identified project or a campus identified project. (These are defined in the next section.)
* Every Guest of CedarCreek is invited to participate on Serve Day through choosing a serve opportunity listed on the Serve Day Directory.

**Project Types:**

* Group Projects – Projects completed by Summer Groups. There are 2 ways these could be done:
  + Self-Identified - The Group has identified, planned and registered a project. Only the Group Leader(s) and members will serve together on the project. These projects will not appear on the directory and will not be open for guests to join. Groups will be asked to follow current Ohio Department of Health guidelines while completing their project. (A link to this site will be on cedarcreek.tv/serveday and regular communication will be made with Group leaders.)
  + Campus-Identified – Identified by the Campus as a potential project and a Group from the campus will complete the project. These could be identified by the Serve Day Lead (typically the Outreach HUB leader right now) at each campus. These projects may include partnering with a local non-profit or church, such as The Tabernacle. These serve opportunities will only be made available to current Groups and will not be on the Serve Day Directory; however, just as in the self-identified projects, they will register the project. Groups will be asked to follow current Ohio Department of Health guidelines while completing their project.
  + Serve Day Opportunities – A directory of ways to serve will be made available to every guest. These opportunities can be completed by a guest on their own, but they will be part of collective effort to make a difference in the community. These serve opportunities will have campus oversight and a leader who would offer connection, support, encouragement and care and then cheer for them when the project is complete.
    - Examples of projects:
      * Chalk Your Walk. This serve would call a large number of people to write encouraging messages on their sidewalk, organized by campus but with guests serving on their own.
      * Care Kits for Nursing Home Residence. This serve would call a large amount of people to put together specific items on their own and then drop it off at a predetermined time and location at the campus. Or the campus could choose to collect items and then have them put together by a Group. The lead for this projects could also use a Group at the collection site, or rely on staff members. The heart of using Groups or staff is to keep people in their typical Groups, rather than random people coming together to serve.
    - The ask to a guest would: *“If you are not part of a group, we would still love for you to be a part of Serve Day. You can visit our Serve Day directory where you will find opportunities that your campus is inviting you to serve. These opportunities can be done on your own or with your family. Know that you are not alone in your serve though, hundreds will be serving in similar ways. Together our serves will make a difference all throughout our community.”*

**Leading Up to Serve Day:**

* Serve Day is more than event, it represents a culture we have been building before the Coronavirus pandemic and see taking place in this “Stay at Home” season. The ways our church has been showing up to love people for Jesus has been inspiring.
* As we head toward Serve Day, we want to continue to encourage our guest and DreamTeam to be on mission, completing acts of kindness, and capturing it through Rise Together.
* To accomplish this, we will shift from Second Saturday Serves to Monthly Opportunities to serve and begin filling a directory with opportunities to serve on your own. These serve opportunities can still include Second Saturday Serves, calls for individual acts of kindness, (E.g. Chalk your walk) and other projects that campuses choose. (E.g. Oregon – Martin Luther Lunch Collection, Whitehouse - AW Food Pantry). *This is not a permanent shift away from the Second Saturday Serve strategy. This temporary shift is to meet current needs in the community and communicate service opportunities to all guests in a clear and timely way.*
* This means each project is registered and on a directory. All guests can be invited to take a step in the area of make a difference, and we can promote and share their stories as one church. In addition, guests could submit ideas for Monthly Opportunities. This would encourage them to continue to dream about ways they can make a difference and help others to do the same.
* Practically, this Monthly Opportunities approach with a directory will take the place of Covid-19 Response page, Meeting Physical Needs, and place it all on the CedarCreek.tv/outreach page. Second Saturday projects will be under Monthly Opportunities and would encourage campuses to still have a specific Second Saturday Serve, as well as monthly opportunities outside of that that come up.
* All of this builds culture towards their always being a need to make a difference in our community.

FAQ:

**What is Serve Day?**SERVE Day is a one-day outreach event that closes out our Summer Group Semester. It’s an amazing opportunity to make a difference by serving outside of the church – and bonus, we typically grow personally when we do! Serve Day is an annual event.

**How will Serve Day be different this year than in the past?**

In the past our Groups were encouraged to open their projects to others. This year we are asking them to keep their serve projects closed. The purpose of this is to keep projects small and to be in position to comply with the current Ohio Department of Health guidelines of the day. Campus projects will also not be open to Guests who are not involved in groups. Instead Groups will be invited to fill the projects that campuses have identified. We will continue to evaluate as we move forward, but the purpose of this to be in position to comply with the current Ohio Department of Health guidelines of the day.

**Can guests join Groups throughout the Summer Semester?**Yes, the Summer Groups Directory will remain open with the Groups that are open at CedarCreek.TV/groups.

**Will we wear Serve Day t-shirts?**

When looking at the vision of Serve Day, shirts are not critical to meeting the goals of the event. At this time, there are many unknown variables that make planning, purchasing, and distribution difficult. For these reasons, we will not be purchasing or distributing shirts for this year’s Serve Day. We can encourage those that have a Serve Day shirt from previous years to wear them and invite others to wear a bright colored shirt. Another option for participants is to purchase the “Rise Together” shirt offered at cedarcreek.tv/merch.

**Will there be SERVE Projects available for those NOT in a Group?**Yes, serve opportunities will be available on the Serve Day Project Directory. Guests will be able to search for a serve opportunity that interests them and sign up for it, even though it’s a project to complete on their own or with their family. Each serve opportunity will be one part or many performing a similar serve. These serves will have a project lead who would then serve as the contact for the project, offer support, care and encouragement to those who sign up and cheer for them when they complete their serve.

**What time do projects start? What kind of timing should I expect?**Projects can start anytime on Saturday the 11th. We recommend Projects last no longer than two hours.

**GROUP LEADER FAQ:**

**I’m a Group leader and I don’t have a Serve opportunity selected, but my small group wants to serve. What should I do? How do I plan it?**First, get creative! Talk to your Group. We have found the best ideas come from their suggestions and they will enjoy it more too. Assess people and their needs in your neighborhood and around your community. Perhaps there is a widow, single mother, or elderly person that could be assisted by cutting grass, or cleaning up the yard. Firefighters, police officers, school resource officers, nursing home residents, assisted living homes, and local business owners are all great people to reach out to and find a way to serve! Be mindful of following current Ohio Department of Health guidelines.

**Should I communicate to the Church which Serve Day project our group is planning?**Yes, we definitely would like know about what your group is participating in. You can register your group’s Serve project online at CedarCreek.tv/ServeDay.

**Who pays the costs associated with our Group’s Serve Project (supplies, travel expenses, etc.)?**Each Group is responsible for all of the supplies and costs associated with their serve project. Spend time determining the scope, and plan work based on your group size and commitment level. If you discover a project that is going to take a significant amount of resources, please share the opportunity with your Serve Day lead.

**Will the church be communicating additional details about Serve Day?**Weekly emails will be sent to all Group leaders and co-leaders, and general information will be communicated at CedarCreek.tv/ServeDay. More info may be presented during weekend services prior to Serve Day too.

**What if it rains?**If you have an outside serve project, make plans to have an inclement weather option in mind.

**Will there be Campus Celebrations?**For now, the plan is to not have campus celebrations. We will be equipping NextSteps Directors with plans and strategies to follow up with participants for the purpose of thanking them and sharing stories from the day, and an option is to do a virtual celebration using GoToMeeting! We also hope to capture video from Serve Day to share with the church on social media and the weekend service.

**STAFF FAQ:**

**What is the role of staff on Serve Day?**

The role of full-time staff for Serve Day is tied to the larger role of full-time staff during a Summer Semester. The most important role for full-time staff members is to lead a Group, at direct report discretion. For full-time staff who are not in a group, they could make great leads for those preforming a individual serve opportunity; part-time would be welcome to participate towards leading at direct report discretion.