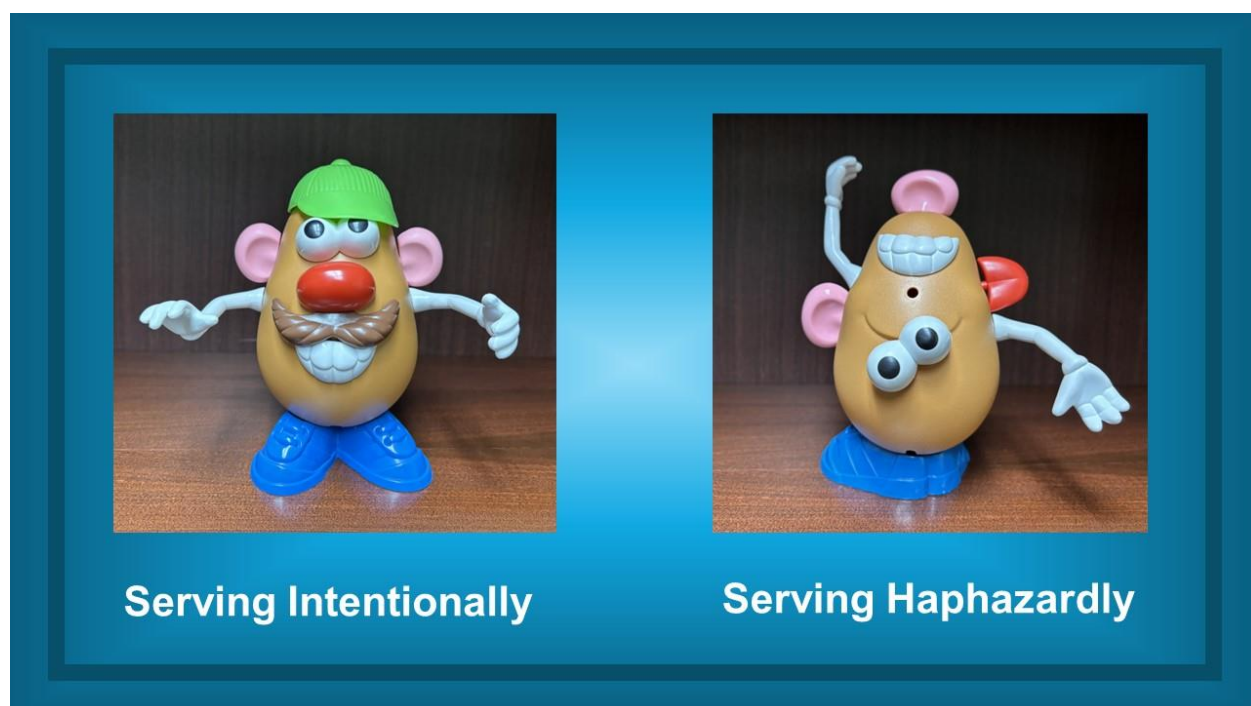


Serving More Intentionally



Are you intentional about your serving? Let me ask the same question in a different way. Does your life look more like the Mr. Potato Head on the left or on the right?

[When it comes to volunteering, St. Peter is on the move.](#) We're moving from serving that is **haphazard, stagnant or intermittent** to serving that is **intentional** (as well as joyful, impactful and faith-full; more on that later). If you aren't experiencing the Mr. Potato Head's haphazard look, your serving might be looking stagnant ("I'll continue doing the same thing cause it's easier than thinking about anything new") or intermittent ("I'll get around to it when I get around to it.") or nonexistent ("I've got more important things to do." or "I'm too old/feeble to serve.")

God has something to say to all of us: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). Old or young, rich or poor, busy or not busy, God has prepared good works for us to do. When we serve more intentionally, we aim to line our activities up as he'd like us to, and good things happen for us and those around us.

Serving more intentionally will look different for each of us because His workmanship has uniquely gifted each of us and He has prepared good works for each of us to do.

How do we serve more intentionally?

Here are some ways we discover the good works God has planned for us.

- We think big picture. All we do, everywhere we live, work and play, is service to Him. He cares about it all.
- We ask more often. The more we bring to Him, the more we will see His hand through it all. Shall I accept that promotion? Take that class? Volunteer there? Buy that tool or toy? Sign the kids up for this? Go there for vacation? All these include opportunities to serve Jesus.
- We open ourselves more to hearing Him, through our worship, personal time in His word, and conversation with fellow followers of Jesus.
- We dream. What might God have designed me for? If time and money were no object, what would I love to do for Him?
- We move to a healthy balance of work and rest. We stop considering exhaustion as normal.
- We leave room for unplanned opportunities to serve.
- We spend less time comparing ourselves to others. I do different tasks, or the same tasks differently, than others because I'm designed differently and has a unique call for me.
- When new opportunities come up, we ask if God is calling us to them. We consider:
 - how it lines up with the way God designed us (our abilities, experiences, interests)
 - how it affects the other ways we're serving at home, work and elsewhere. Should I drop something else if I add this?
 - our motivation. Am I considering this to please others? Because I feel I "should"? To prove something to myself or others?
 - Is this an opportunity to help others?
- Periodically we reevaluate all our ongoing activities in the same way.
- When we can't do what we used to do and still want to do, we look for what we can do today.
- We recognize that the best way to serve others is to remind people, or introduce people to, the God who loves them beyond measure.

What's your next step?

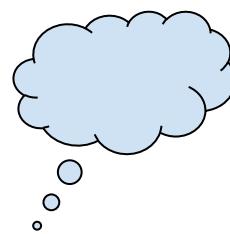
Learning to serve more intentionally is a life-long journey. We can start small, and we can start today. Here's some possibilities:

- If a new opportunity is in front of you, in addition to considering if you have time, consider if and how it lines up with how God has designed you, and how it will affect your other everyday serving.
- Plan some intentional rest into next week.
- If there's an issue or decision on your mind, spend some intentional prayer time on it.
- Take one small step to adjust what you already are doing to line it up better with how God has designed you and calls you.
- If you're feeling unable to serve in the ways you want to, find a way you *can* serve now. Phone someone who might be lonely? Complement the clerk at the store? Write a letter? Take coffee to a neighbor?

Most of all, we can delight in the Lord who loves us even when we get it wrong, even when our life is a mess. He'll cheer us on each step of the way to serving more intentionally.

What's your dream volunteer job?

Our dreams can be nudges from God, revealing something of how He's gifted and is calling us. Sharing your dream with a friend can be encouraging. Sharing it with leaders in your church family can help better invite people to consider opportunities that might be a good fit, and help them see how God has resourced this family of faith for its mission and vision. So we invite you to tell us about your serving dream:



If money and time were no object, how would you use your abilities to serve others? Is it distributing books to children who have none? Visiting those who are ill or frail?

[Share your serving dream here.](#)

Also in this "Let's Talk" series:

Week 1: [We're on the Move!](#)

Week 2: [Serving an Audience of One everywhere we live, work and play](#)

Week 4, April 27 and 28: Serving More Joyfully

Week 5, May 18 and 19: Serving More Impactfully

Week 6, June 1 and 2: Serving More Faith-Fully

Week 7, June 15 and 16: Serving Together