

How Your Whole Church Can Celebrate 3.21

Pick a few. Have fun. Include everyone.



World Down Syndrome Day is a celebration for every generation in your church: toddlers to grandparents, first-time guests to longtime members. This guide is full of ideas to pick from, including socks and social posts, a special offering, fellowship, outreach, and ways to keep the celebration going after March 21.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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IDEA MENU

21 ways your church can celebrate

Check off the ones you'll try. Even three or four make a great celebration. The top five are the easiest to start with.

1



Rock your socks

Everyone wears bright, mismatched socks on Sunday, March 21.

3



Sock basket at the doors

Spare fun socks for anyone who forgot. Theirs to keep.

5



Special offering

Give to a local Down syndrome group or your church's inclusion fund.

7



Pray together

A prayer for people with Down syndrome and their families.

9



Kids' lessons

Every class uses the Kids Ministry Guides that morning.

11



Sock-themed potluck

Lunch after church, with a "best socks" award for every age.

13



Cards of encouragement

Kids and small groups make cards for local families and teachers.

15



Window sign up

Put up the Proud Celebrate 3.21 Church sign where the community can see it.

17



Join a local event

Walk, cheer, or volunteer at a local Down syndrome event as a church team.

19



Story time (if they'd like)

A person or family shares a 2-minute story, in their own words.

21



Say hello to someone new

Everyone greets one person they don't know yet.

2



Church-wide feet photo

Everyone lines up their socks after service for one big picture.

4



Post on socials

Share photos with #Celebrate321 all week long.

6



People with Down syndrome serve

Greeting, reading, praying, leading worship, running slides.

8



Preach on belonging

Use a sermon starter from the Rock Your Socks Sunday Kit.

10



3.21 fellowship treat

Cupcakes with 3 sprinkles colors, or a 3-layer cake on the 21st.

12



Sock drive

Collect new socks for a shelter or family center, in groups of 3 or 21.

14



Invite a family

Personally invite a family you know who has a loved one with Down syndrome.

16



Learn one thing

Put the fact sheet in the bulletin or on the screen before service.

18



Celebrate a volunteer

Thank the buddies, teachers, and helpers who make room for everyone.

20



Pick a next step

Announce one thing your church will do this year to include everyone.

SOCKS, PHOTOS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Show off those socks

Socks make it easy for everyone to join in, and photos help your whole community see that your church celebrates everyone.

5 PHOTOS TO GET

- 1 The big feet photo**
Everyone points their toes to the center of a circle, shot from above (stand on a sturdy chair or use a balcony).
- 2 The sock line-up**
A row of feet on the stage steps, every sock different.
- 3 Generations**
A grandparent's socks next to a toddler's.
- 4 Teams**
Worship team, kids' ministry, greeters, and staff, each in their socks.
- 5 The sock basket**
The basket at the door, with a hand reaching in.

PHOTO PERMISSION, ALWAYS

- Feet photos are the easiest and safest
- Only show faces with permission, especially children's
- Ask families of people with disabilities before posting their loved one
- Never tag or name a child without a parent's OK
- Announce ahead: "Tell a photographer if you'd rather not be in photos"

CAPTION BANK · COPY, PASTE, POST

No two socks alike, and that's the point! Today we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day as a church family. #Celebrate321 #RockYourSocks

3 copies of chromosome 21 = 3/21! We rocked our socks to celebrate the people with Down syndrome in our church and community. #Celebrate321

"I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14. Every person. Every sock. #Celebrate321

Look at all these feet! Thank you, [church name], for showing up in your wildest socks. Everyone belongs here. #Celebrate321

Our kids learned today that God made every person on purpose. Then they made some very fun socks. #Celebrate321

Next Sunday is Rock Your Socks Sunday! Wear your brightest, silliest, most mismatched socks, and help us celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. #Celebrate321

POSTING PLAN

- **2 weeks out:** save-the-date post
- **1 week out:** "dig out your socks" reminder
- **Saturday:** staff and volunteers show their socks
- **Sunday:** the big feet photo
- **The week after:** thank-you post and your next step

GIVE TOGETHER

A special 3.21 offering

A special offering lets your whole church do something together that no one could do alone. Keep it joyful and optional, and tell people exactly where the money goes.

WHERE IT COULD GO (PICK ONE)

Your local Down syndrome association

Supports families right in your community with new-parent visits, programs, and events. In Central Ohio: DSACO.

Your church's inclusion fund

Pays for a calm room, sensory bags, buddy training, a Parents' Night Out, or accessibility fixes from your Welcome Audit.

A national organization

Such as the National Down Syndrome Society, the National Down Syndrome Congress, or the Global Down Syndrome Foundation.

A Christian disability ministry

Such as Joni and Friends, which trains churches and serves families around the world.

FUN 3.21 GIVING IDEAS

- Give **\$3.21**, **\$32.10**, or **\$321**
- Kids bring **21 coins** in a sock
- Small groups aim for **321** of something: dollars, socks, or cards
- A "sock" offering: pass clean socks instead of plates!

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT · ABOUT 45 SECONDS

"Today, as we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, we're taking a special offering for **[where it's going]**. This gift will help **[what it will do: welcome new families, train buddies, build a calm room]**."

Some of us are giving \$3.21, for the three copies of chromosome 21. Some are giving more, and some aren't able to give today, and that's okay.

Everyone's part of this celebration. Thank you for helping make room for everyone."

DO IT WELL

- Get leadership and finance team approval first, following your church's giving policy
- If you're giving to an outside group, contact them ahead of time
- Offer every way to give: plate, envelope, online, and text
- Never single out or feature a person with Down syndrome to raise money
- Report back: tell the church how much was given and what it did

FRAME IT RIGHT

This offering is a celebration and a partnership, not charity for people who are "less fortunate." People with Down syndrome are part of the giving church, too. Invite them to help collect, count, or pray over the offering if they'd like.

CELEBRATE TOGETHER, THEN GO OUT

Fellowship & serving your community

The best celebrations spill out of the building. Here are ideas for your fellowship time, and for showing your community that your church is a place where everyone belongs.

FELLOWSHIP & FOOD IDEAS

- **3.21 cupcakes:** 3 colors of sprinkles, or 21 cupcakes on a sock-shaped platter
- **Sock cookies:** decorate sock-shaped sugar cookies, a fun kids' station
- **Mismatched potluck:** everyone brings a dish, no two alike
- **Coffee hour:** sock-patterned napkins and the fact sheet on every table
- **Best socks awards:** brightest, silliest, most mismatched, and best matching family

MAKE FELLOWSHIP WELCOMING

- Offer a quieter room or table
- Label foods and allergens
- Save accessible seats near the food
- Have greeters invite people to sit with them

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY



Sock drive

Collect new socks for a shelter, food pantry, or foster family center. Aim for 321 pairs!



Encourage local schools

Bring treats or cards to a special education classroom or school staff the Friday before (March 19).



Show up as a church

Join a local Down syndrome association event, walk, or celebration as a church team in matching (or mismatched!) socks.



Partner with a local group

Offer your building for a family event, a parent meet-up, or a new-parent support group.



Invite your neighbors

Put the window sign up and invite the community to a sensory-friendly service or fellowship lunch.

FOR KIDS

Kids' lessons in every class, sock crafts, and a card-making station for local families.

FOR STUDENTS

Youth lead the feet photo, run the social posts, or organize the sock drive.

FOR ADULTS & SENIORS

Pray, write encouragement cards, host the potluck, and share the fact sheet with friends.

A SAMPLE ROCK YOUR SOCKS SUNDAY MORNING

At the door

Sock basket, greeters in fun socks, sensory bags

Worship

Slides, pastor's moment, prayer, offering

Kids

Every class uses its 3.21 lesson and craft

After service

The big feet photo, then post it

Fellowship

3.21 cupcakes, sock awards, sock drive drop-off

PLAN IT

Our 3.21 celebration plan

Fill this in with your team. Include at least one person with Down syndrome or a family member in the planning.

THE BASICS

Date & service times _____

Team leader _____

Planning team _____

Our size: Light / Medium / Full _____

WE'RE DOING... (CHECK ALL)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Rock your socks | ☐ Sock basket |
| ☐ Feet photo | ☐ Social posts |
| ☐ Special offering | ☐ Kids' lessons |
| ☐ Sermon / pastor's moment | ☐ Fellowship treat |
| ☐ Sock drive | ☐ Community event |
| ☐ Window sign | ☐ Next-step announcement |

WHO'S DOING WHAT

TASK	PERSON	DUE	DONE?

SPECIAL OFFERING

Going to _____

What it will do _____

Approved by _____

Total given (fill in after) _____

AFTER 3.21

Photos shared by _____

Thank-you sent by _____

Our next step _____

Debrief date _____

PRINTABLE

Special offering insert (2 per page)

Print on colored paper, cut in half, and put in bulletins or offering envelopes.



Our 3.21 Special Offering

Today we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day together. Our special offering goes to _____ to help

☐ \$3.21 ☐ \$32.10 ☐ \$321 ☐ Other: \$_____

Name (optional): _____

Give in the plate, online at _____, or by text. Every gift, and every sock, counts!



"Carry one another's burdens."
Galatians 6:2



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WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY · 3.21

Sock Drive!

Help us collect **321** pairs

Bring **new** socks in every size and style. They'll go to

Drop off by _____ at _____



Everyone belongs. #Celebrate321

