Contact Info:
To sign up online for volunteer opportunities w/ The Gathering go to this site: http://mlf.org/the-gathering-volunteer-calendar/

For specific questions or needs relating to mobilizing groups or coordinating volunteers to serve with The Gathering, please contact Angela Hugo, The Gathering Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@thegatheringcf.org or 832-372-1556

If you have musical gifts in the area of worship leading, please contact Brian Patterson, The Gathering Worship Coordinator, at worship@thegatheringcf.org or 512-715-3316

For questions or needs relating to overall spiritual direction with The Gathering at Community First!, please contact Matt Freeman, Pastor-Dude, at matt.freeman@thegatheringcf.org or 512-587-5640

Sunday Venue at Community First! Village
The Gathering meets at Community First! Village, a 27-acre master planned community that is lifting the disabled, chronically homeless off the streets and providing a safe, affordable, supportive community to call home. The Gathering meets in several locations at Community First! Village. A few important essentials:

- Community First! address: 9301 Hog Eye Rd., Austin, TX 78724
- Parking is limited; there are spots available near the front entrance and along Goodness Way (the main circle around the property).
- The Gathering meets approx. 200 yards from the main entrance to Community First! in Unity Hall located in the center of the property ... look for the large sign out front that says, “Unity Hall” near the antique pick-up truck parked in the circle drive just inside the main entrance to the property.
- There are bathrooms located in the breezeway at Unity Hall .
- Unity Hall provides an open, multi-functional 300-seat place to gather; the building is near outdoor kitchens that provide ovens.
- If you are providing a meal, please bring serving utensils, paper goods (i.e., plates, plastic ware, napkins, etc.) ... neighbors at Community First! are good with serving the 8 oz. water for drinks.
Guiding Principles:

- *The Gathering* desires to create a life-giving spiritual growth model that launches a wave of dynamic Christ followers at Community First! (CF!) and beyond.
- *The Gathering* is connected to the greater mission at CF! by providing spiritual direction at CF! as a ministry partner with Mobile Loaves & Fishes.
- *The Gathering* as a Christ-centered mission attempts to avoid denominational, cultural, economic, or racial distinctions. We strive to be faith-based, not faith-biased.
- *The Gathering* seeks to be a multi-cultural mission committed to the Gospel of Christ, the unity of His Spirit and the mission of CF!
- *The Gathering* wholeheartedly believes that in the theological essentials (primary issues) there is unity, in the theological non-essentials (secondary issues) there is liberty, and in all things, there is charity (grace).
- *The Gathering* welcomes folks from wide and diverse backgrounds to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind, and to love their neighbors as themselves.
- *The Gathering* seeks to create 3 ministry environments: 1). KNOW (helping people know Christ personally); 2). GROW (helping people grow in Christ spiritually); 3). SERVE (helping people serve people and advance God’s kingdom passionately).
- *The Gathering* embraces three principles that sync with KNOW, GROW and SERVE and 3 corresponding values: everyone matters to God (KNOW); we aim for progress, not perfection (GROW); it’s not about you (SERVE).
- *The Gathering* uses the Apostle’s Creed as a theological foundation of what we believe as a Christ-centered mission.
- *The Gathering* meets at CF! in far East Austin; the address is 9301 Hog Eye Rd., Austin, TX 78724 (*NOTE*: please enter in this exact address to your GPS as there are multiple Hog Eye Roads that could take you miles from CF!).
- *The Gathering* meets in Unity Hall, a multi-purpose building; accommodations are basic and we ask servants and volunteers to demonstrate a servant posture of flexibility and adaptability (*NOTE*: we occasionally meet outdoors, or in other venues on the property of Community First, where it may be warmer in the summer months and cooler at other times).
- We sometimes encourage guests to bring a camping style chair and water.
- *The Gathering* meets every Sunday at Community First! Village; the typical Sunday schedule is:
  -- 4:04pm: prayer for those who need prayer or want to pray
  -- 4:30pm: meet and greet w/ volunteers
  -- 5:05pm: worship / teaching
  -- 6:06pm: worship concludes; transition to serve family style meal
  -- 7:07pm: clean up and depart
About Our Worship:

- For churches / ministries that are invited to provide a worship leader, we typically worship for approx. 20-25 minutes (3-4 songs).
- We request song lyrics 72 hours in advance...we use PowerPoint slides to show worship lyrics; please email to worship@thegatheringcf.org.
- To prep w/ song selection, we sometimes work through a teaching series and seek to align the worship with a Christ-centered, scripture-based form of teaching.
- Here is the general flow of The Gathering (NOTE: the entire service lasts approx. 1 hour)
  - welcome (icebreaker)
  - 2-3 songs (approx. 20 minutes)
  - responsive reading
  - message (approx. 20 minutes)
  - testimony (on select Sundays)
  - Lord’s Table / communion (on select Sundays)
  - prayer
  - serve family style meal
- We utilize a basic sound system at Unity Hall for The Gathering (NOTE: please feel free to bring additional sound equipment and accessories that you need).

About Our Teaching:

- On select dates, we may invite like-minded teachers who embrace the mission and values of The Gathering and who have the ability to follow the progression of a teaching series.
- The message at The Gathering should be approx. 20 minutes.
- We aim for the teaching to be biblically-based, Christ-focused, understandable and relevant to the neighbors at CF!
- In some cases, we may request an outline with talking points of the message prior to The Gathering.

About Volunteering:

- The Gathering has an online sign up: http://mlf.org/the-gathering-volunteer-calendar/
- If you have specific questions or needs, please contact Angela, Volunteer Coordinator for The Gathering, at volunteer@thegatheringcf.org or 832-372-1556; she will assist with providing essential details relating to food and volunteer roles.
- If you have musical gifts in the area of worship leading, please contact Brian Patterson, The Gathering Worship Coordinator, at worship@thegatheringcf.org or 512-715-3316.
- For questions or needs relating to spiritual direction of The Gathering, please contact Matt Freeman, Pastor-Dude, at matt.freeman@thegatheringcf.org or 512-587-5640.
- All volunteers are requested to show up Sundays at 4:30pm for a brief orientation and meet and greet; we begin set up after the meet and greet.
More on Community First! (CF!):

- Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) is the ministry overseeing and directing CF!, a nationally recognized, master planned community in far East Austin for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness. CF! provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for more than two hundred homeless men and women.

- MLF provides food and clothing, promotes dignity and cultivates community to our homeless brothers and sisters in need.

- The vision of MLF is to empower communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless and formerly homeless.

- You can learn more about CF! by logging onto the MLF website at http://mlf.org/community-first/

- Here is a short 3-minute video that tells the story of MLF and what God is building at CF! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27XDnHzdck