Serving Through Care Connect

Care Connect offers eight areas of service, with flexible opportunities that allow volunteers to participate according to their interests, abilities and availability.

We believe that **serving others is often as much a blessing to the volunteer as it is to the person receiving care.**

The program is supported by four Care Coordinators and volunteer Service Leads who work together to connect members with appropriate care.

Care Coordinators

- Diane Brooks
- Pam Bush
- Janet Bustin
- Brooke Messer

Service Lead: Elizabeth McQueen

Joys and Celebrations Ministry

Recognize and celebrate meaningful milestones and special occasions in the lives of our church family.

Description of Service

The Joys and Celebrations Ministry recognizes and celebrates significant milestones, accomplishments, and blessings in the lives of church members and regular attendees. The ministry seeks to cultivate gratitude for God's work in our congregation, strengthen relationships within the church family, and ensure that moments of joy are acknowledged with intentional care and encouragement.

Just as the church walks alongside members during seasons of difficulty, this ministry provides opportunities to celebrate life's meaningful events and covenant milestones. Through personal outreach, congregational recognition, prayer, and acts of hospitality, the ministry helps foster a culture of gratitude, belonging, and shared celebration.

The ministry may recognize:

- Births and adoptions
- Baptisms and membership commitments
- Graduations and educational achievements
- Weddings and anniversaries
- Retirements and career milestones
- Promotions, awards, and special accomplishments
- Significant birthdays and personal milestones
- Ordinations and other vocational or spiritual milestones
- Special moments of service and leadership within the church and the community

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How the Service Will Be Delivered

When a celebration, milestone, or achievement becomes known, information is referred to the Congregational Care Coordinator or designated ministry volunteer. Appropriate recognition is determined in collaboration with clergy and staff while honoring privacy preferences.

The process includes:

Information and Permission

- A volunteer receives information regarding the celebration or milestone
- For events that are not already public knowledge, permission is obtained before any congregational recognition occurs
- The member's preferences regarding public acknowledgment are respected

Determining Appropriate Recognition
Recognition is tailored to the nature of the celebration and may include one or more forms of outreach.

Personal Recognition
Examples include:

- Promotions
- Awards
- Educational achievements
- Milestone birthdays
- Personal accomplishments

Possible responses include:

- Personal note or congratulatory card: *Congratulations notecards and envelopes are available in the UPUMC Staff office workroom*.
- Prayer of thanksgiving
- Recognition in prayer lists with permission
- Phone call or personal outreach

Congregational Recognition

Examples include:

- Births and adoptions
- Graduations
- Weddings
- Significant anniversaries
- Retirements

Possible responses include:

- Worship announcements
- Bulletin or newsletter recognition
- Church-wide celebrations
- Congregational prayers of gratitude
- Follow-up visits, calls, cards, or meals when appropriate

For births and adoptions, recognition may include:

- Placement of a rose on the altar
- Delivery of the rose to the family's home
- A congratulatory card
- Meal support
- Information regarding baptism opportunities

Covenant Milestones

Examples include:

- Baptisms
- Membership commitments
- Confirmations
- Ordinations
- Mission Trip and other commissions

Possible responses include:

- Worship participation and recognition
- Congregational blessings and prayers
- Symbolic or liturgical celebrations
- Follow-up pastoral and lay outreach

- Fellowship opportunities and welcome events