UPUMC CARE CONNECT

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: John Jenkins & Mary Tabor

Homebound Visitation Ministry

Provide personal connection, companionship and spiritual encouragement to members who are unable to attend church regularly.

Description of Service:

The Homebound Visitation Ministry provides compassionate, personal connection to church members who are unable to regularly participate in congregational life due to illness, mobility limitations, age-related challenges, recovery needs, or other circumstances that keep them homebound.

Homebound includes confined to home or facilities like CC Young, Tradition, etc.

Through regular visits, volunteers offer friendship, encouragement, prayer, spiritual support, and a continued connection to the life of the church. These visits help ensure that members remain cared for, valued, and included as an important part of the faith community.

The ministry seeks to reflect Christ's love through presence, listening, and companionship while helping identify additional care needs that may arise over time.

How the Service Will Be Delivered

Members requesting homebound visitation or identified by family members or friends will first be assessed through the Congregational Care Team to determine their needs and the appropriate frequency of visits. Once approved for visitation, a trained volunteer will be assigned and provided with relevant information, including the member's contact information, visitation schedule, and any special considerations, including a checklist/procedural list with specific necessary components and conversation support.

The visitation process includes:

- Assessment and referral by the Congregational Care Team
- Assignment of a trained volunteer visitor
- Volunteer contact with the member to schedule a visit
- In-person visits conducted according to ministry guidelines
- Prayer and spiritual encouragement during the visit
- Offering communion when appropriate and authorized
- Documentation of the visit through a follow-up report
- Communication of any concerns or additional care needs to the Congregational Care Coordinator

Volunteers serve as caring companions and representatives of the church, helping members remain connected to their faith community while respecting personal boundaries and individual circumstances.