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: Nancy Jungman & Diane Brooks

Contact: Diane Brooks

Meal Ministry

Provide meals and a tangible expression of care to individuals and families during illness, recovery, grief or other times of need.

Description of Service:

The Meal Ministry provides practical support, comfort, and encouragement to church members and staff and their families during times of illness, recovery, grief, family transition, or other challenging circumstances, or joyful events such as the birth of a baby. Through the gift of a prepared meal, the ministry offers a tangible expression of Christ's love and the care of the church community.

Meals consist of a homemade frozen entrée prepared by volunteers, dinner rolls and cookies.

When dietary restrictions or special nutritional needs are identified, alternative meal options are either prepared or purchased to ensure recipients receive food that is both appropriate and helpful. This ministry seeks not only to provide nourishment but also to remind recipients that they are remembered, supported, and deeply valued by their church family.

How the service is provided:

COOKS

-Casseroles will be prepared at home following recipes provided by the Meal Ministry Chairmen. Recipes will be simple with clear instructions for easy preparation.

- Casseroles will be delivered to the freezer in the Church kitchen dedicated to this ministry.

-Volunteers will receive specific cooking instructions/tips at training.

-Meal Ministry Chairmen will keep track of inventory in church Meal Ministry freezer. An email will be sent out to volunteers when there is a need for casseroles.

Note: we strive to keep approximately 10 casseroles in the freezer, so they are used in a timely manner.

DELIVERY

When a meal need is identified and communicated to the ministry coordinators, the recipient is contacted and offered support through the Meal Ministry. If the offer is accepted, a meal is put together, packaged with care items, and delivered directly to the recipient's home.

The delivery process includes:

- Referral of a meal need through congregational care volunteers
- Contact with the recipient to determine interest, timing and any dietary restrictions
- Assembly of the meal package using frozen items (casserole, rolls, cookies) in church Meal Ministry freezer with accompanying care items
- Write name of recipient/delivery date in notebook in Meal Ministry supply box.
- Personal delivery by a trained volunteer and visit with the recipient when appropriate
- Communication with service line leader regarding completed deliveries
- Referral of any additional care needs identified during the visit

Volunteers are encouraged to remain flexible during deliveries, recognizing that some recipients may appreciate a brief visit, prayer, or conversation, while others may prefer a simple delivery and expression of care.