

Welcoming & Inviting Ministries

Welcoming and Inviting Ministries, in response to the biblical mandate to show hospitality, seeks to help each and every person who enters our doorway to feel welcome and “at home” at First United Methodist Church. As one of our Core Values reads~

First United Methodist Church exists to:

Welcome people in love –

We believe that all people are God’s people. To God there are no outsiders, so when we say that everyone is welcome we mean *everyone*.

You are invited to join with other members and friends of our church by lending a hand and a smile to our Welcoming and Inviting Ministries, to the end that all who come here will know that they are valued as a person of worth and helped to experience the warmth and caring of our Faith Family.

What is the Welcoming and Inviting Ministries Committee?

The Welcoming and Inviting Ministries is composed of 12 different groups of persons who do a variety of ministries. Each of these groups, under the guidance of Leader, is responsible for one component of our ministry of hospitality and inviting. The groups meet as needed for sharing of information, training, and the planning & implementing of the group’s ministry goals. Each group leader is a part of the Welcoming and Inviting

Ministries Committee for coordination and long range planning. The Welcoming and Inviting Ministries Committee meets monthly, usually on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm. Pastor Barrie M. Tritle and Membership Secretary Claire Bartleson are the Staff Support for this Committee. Our overall goal is to be the human touch of God’s love for others who come to our church and to extend that love to the community to join us on our faith journey.

What are the Welcoming and Inviting Ministries Groups?

Awareness Invitations: Through the church’s website, press releases, newspaper and yellow pages advertising, radio and television spots, bulletin boards and other media, this Group seeks to enable the broader community to become aware of the ministries of First United Methodist Church and to invite newcomers to visit our church as our guests.

Greeters: Putting a human face on our Welcoming Ministries, Greeters, located at all the entries of the church, welcome all who are attending worship. In addition, Greeters serve to assist newcomers with the making of a name tag, as well as helping them to find Sunday School classrooms or other areas in the church.

Visitor Information Personnel: Members of this group watch for any newcomers or guests who may be sitting close to where they are seated in worship. During the “Greeting Time” and after worship our V.I.P.

members make a special point of personally welcoming our guests to worship, as well as answering any questions our guests may have about our church and making a point of introducing them to members of our staff and congregation. In addition, members of our V.I.P. Group may accompany our guests to the Welcome Center or invite them to one of our Fellowship Times.

Fellowship Time/Hour: Following each Service of Worship, a time of refreshment and fellowship is held in the Upper Room. Members of this group are responsible for serving those who attend this important time of community building and sharing.

Welcome Center: All newcomers and guests are invited to the Welcome Center, located in the church’s Narthex. Here they receive a free gift and information about the life and ministries of our church. Members of this group are responsible for staffing the Welcome Center as well as assembling the information to be distributed to our guests.

Telephone Follow-Up: Once a newcomer or guest has shared their contact information with us, members of the Telephone Follow-Up Group make a “Be brief, Be bright, Be gone” telephone call, welcoming the guest to our church, answering any questions they may have, and inviting them to share with us in worship again soon. Following the calls, any requests for further information is shared with the church’s Membership Secretary.

“Meet the Staff” Newcomer Orientation:

Once a quarter, or more often as needed, newcomers are invited to a “Meet the Staff” Orientation Session where they learn more about First United Methodist Church and are introduced to the Church’s Ministry Staff and to our Membership process. Members of this Group assist in providing and serving the snack supper and in providing other support.

“Faith Friends”: Having attended the Orientation Session, newcomers are matched with a church member or family who serve as their “Faith Friends.” The “Faith Friends” serve to help the newcomer feel “at home” in our congregation by greeting them on Sunday mornings, checking in with them from time to time, and by inviting them to share in activities that are taking place at the church. Members of this Group recruit, train, and assign the “Faith Friends” to their respective newcomer families.

New Member Class/Brunch: Those newcomers wishing to become a member of the church, along with their “Faith Friends,” are invited to attend a New Member Class and Brunch, before they are received as new members. Members of this Group provide and serve the brunch and provide other support.

Name Tags: Members of this Group will periodically straighten and “re-alphabetize” the permanent Name Tag racks, working with the Membership Secretary to add or remove tags as is appropriate.

Pictorial Directory: These Group Members coordinate the publishing of the church’s Pictorial Directories, usually undertaken on a three to four year basis.

How To Get Involved

If you feel called to share your gifts and talents in our Ministry of Hospitality by joining one of our Welcoming and Inviting Ministry Groups, you may indicate your interest by:

Filling Out a Ministry Menu Form, available in the Narthex, and placing it in the receptacle that is provided. Please indicate clearly the Group on which you would like to serve.

– or –

Telephone or E-mail the Church Office to indicate your willingness to serve in this important ministry of hospitality. Please contact:

Rev. D. Barrie M. Tritle @ 337.2857;
btritle@icfirstchurch.org

Claire Bartleson @ 337.2857;
claire-bartleson@icfirstchurch.org

www.icfirstchurch.org



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