

Report to 2020 Church Conference for Mission and Outreach Ministry

OUTREACH – Activities have been severely limited due to the pandemic. The Welcoming Ministry (e.g. visitor notes/followups, 'We miss you cards') was active until in person worship was halted, then resumed when in person worship resumed. In the midst of the pandemic, we have remained connected to people and organizations to the extent that restrictions and circumstances allow.

The team's goal now and in future is to help make disciples of Jesus Christ by doing the following:

- Reach out that we might understand the needs of the community and take action
- Build relationships within the community; partner with and for people and organizations
- Make community aware of who Friendship is, our values, our diversity, our desire to help, and invite them to join the Body of Christ
- Promote Friendship that we might become a greater presence in the community
- Develop and conduct activities and events to strengthen and expand our Outreach Ministry

Following are the three mission teams at Friendship. They share the love of God and all creation, generosity of time, effort, and spirit, and the desire to bring God into all of our lives.

DAYBREAK - Serving at Daybreak is a long standing tradition at Friendship. On the third Friday (and following Saturday morning) we donate food, cook and serve two meals at a shelter in Joliet. During the first few months of the pandemic, we were unable to serve physically at the shelter. Instead, we collected food and personal items for distribution to clients who were housed in hotels. In August, we were able to serve dinner only to far fewer clients, due to capacity limitations and social distancing. In November, positivity rates permitting, we hope to be able to add back breakfast service.

SENIOR BIBLE STUDY & LUNCHEON - Is open to all senior adults. It meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:15am. The study is led by Pastor Anna and is followed by a delicious luncheon. This mission activity was suspended in March due to the pandemic. It will resume in person once it is safe to do so.

GIVING TREE MINISTRY - Closely connects with various organizations in the neighborhood by collecting items from the congregation requested by those organizations. Due to the pandemic, we will be doing virtual trees starting in December.