

# COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP DINNERS

## Description/Guidelines

**PURPOSE:** To share the love of Jesus Christ with the Worthington Presbyterian Church community by providing and sharing a nutritious meal in a welcoming, engaging, and supportive atmosphere of Christian fellowship.

**BACKGROUND:** Worthington Presbyterian Church was invited by All Saints Lutheran Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal Church, and Worthington United Methodist Church to provide a monthly community meal. Each month each of these four churches sponsor a dinner for the Worthington/north Columbus residents. Mission Ministry has organized these meals since January, 2014. Over the years, several WPC organizations/individual members have hosted these dinners.

It is our hope that the following list of details will be help to you as you consider hosing one of these Friendship Dinners. This list is not all-inclusive. Please contact DICK PATTON (740-363-1466 or 740-602-0696) if you have questions.

### LOCATION/DATE/TIME

Each WPC Friendship Dinner is served:

- In Hazelton Hall (Fellowship Hall)
- First Monday of each month (a few exceptions to this, i.e. holidays)
- 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

### PLANNING DINNER

- The host(s) chooses the meal menu. It is suggested that your meal include: entrée, vegetable, salad, fruit, bread, and dessert. (Mission

Ministry provides the bread/cookies/sweets, donated by Panera).  
You may provide other desserts, if you choose.

- Ask family, friends, neighbors to prepare parts of the meal
- The meal can be prepared at home and brought to church or prepared at church
- GFS (Gordon Food Service) has multiple frozen entrees, bulk salad materials, etc. if you prefer not to make dishes from scratch
- Although it is not possible to know number of guests, we have generally averaged 40-50 guests. In addition, include enough food for you and your servers.
- The church kitchen is equipped with large refrigerators, stove, ovens, pots, pans, large serving utensils, various-sized knives, etc. that may be used for food preparation and serving.
- If needing assistance with using the stove and ovens, call Larry (614-893-3376)
- Funding to help cover costs is available for up to \$100. Receipts should be presented to the Finance Secretary for reimbursement.

## **SET UP**

- At 5:45 pick up 2-6 people from Stafford Village at the Stafford Village office.
- If food has been prepared at home, arrived at church 4:45-5:00 p.m.
- Custodians will have tables/chairs set up for you (8-9 tables with 7 chairs each)
- Place sign outside the double doors entry to the Fellowship Hall
- Use materials from “Community Friendship Dinner” cupboard (in Fellowship Hall, a labeled closet just inside the hallway, the top two shelves) – paper products, napkins, plastic ware, plastic cups, plastic gloves
- Plastic tablecloths are located in the pantry room on the right in marked plastic containers. The door into the pantry is at the back left of the kitchen, in cabinets to your left as you walk in.
- Put on each table: salt/pepper shakers and a pitcher of ice water -- found in kitchen pantry
- Plug in coffee pot and water for tea (Custodian will have these ready)

- Cut up Panera bread (sharp knives and baskets in pantry cupboards) and serve a variety of breads in a basket for each table. Baskets are located in the pantry.
- Extra bread and bagels may be placed on trays and placed on long rectangle table for individuals to take home. (Plastic bags available for guests to use, in Fellowship Hall cupboard)

## **SERVING DINNER**

- Pray with guests (you or any volunteer from the church can lead it- you will find a prayer that can be used at the end of these guidelines)
- Use plastic gloves when working with food. Serve dinner on paper plates (in Fellowship Hall cupboard)
- You may serve guests individually or buffet style (it is recommended that you have 3 or more servers and 3 or more volunteers filling plates)
- When finished serving, please sit with the guests, not at a separate table, and enjoy the meal with them
- If there are requests for seconds, make sure you have enough food for late arrivals before giving seconds.
- After the main meal has been served, put desserts out on serving tables or serve desserts to individuals at their tables. (Serving carts, located in kitchen, may be used to take desserts to tables)
- If you have left-overs, use To Go Boxes (in cupboard) for guests to take home.

## **CLEAN UP**

- Dispose of all used paper products and plastic ware in large, plastic bag-lined garbage pails located in Fellowship Hall
- Wash trays, water pitchers, used kitchen utensils
- Wash tables in kitchen and Fellowship Hall with Clorox wipes (in Fellowship cupboard)
- Put away: salt/pepper shakers and all cleaned items

- Take all unused food with you or dispose of properly (It is nice to leave a plate in the refrigerator for the Custodian—but let him know it is there)
- Bring sign from outside
- Make sure stove and ovens are turned off
- Turn out lights as you leave

**PRAYER** (one possibility for a prayer)

Dear God, thank you for this day, and for the special people gathered here. Please bless this meal. May the food, the conversation, and the friendship strengthen us – body, mind and spirit – so that we can leave here knowing that you love us and you go with us.

In Jesus' name, AMEN!

THANK YOU for all you are doing to help our community. We appreciate your service!!!

If you have insights, comments, suggestion about this project, please notify Dick Patton.