Ministry of Service

Service is the lifeblood of the Christian Church and at Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah Menasha (CUCCNM), we take the calling seriously. Service takes many forms at CUCCNM. Our mission statement is: **Ministry of Service encourages people to put Christ’s teachings into action. Our goal is to engage the community in the joyful and compassionate service of others as a testimony and celebration of faith.**

Service Sunday, occurring in late spring, spreads Christ’s love and care into the community. Past outreach activities have included paying for laundry at local laundromats, beautifying Doty Island with flowers, painting fingernails at a nursing home, baking treats for the police and fire departments, and preparing packets for Samaritan Counseling. The morning concludes with a lunch at Smith Park.

Our membership generously supports the Fox Valley Community Table six times a year with a noontime meal for 80-100 people each time. We also take part in providing food and gifts for the Community Table Christmas Dinner in early December. All items for this outreach are donated by our church community.

The Alternative Market is held at Christmas time and the rummage/plant sale is provided to the community in the summer. All are volunteer staffed to support church programs. We also participate in a CROP Hunger Walk each year. This community-wide fundraiser is sponsored by Church World Service to end hunger at home and around the world. We contribute time, talent, and treasure to COTS transitional shelter in Appleton, aiding in readying the house for refugee mothers and children.

The ministry advocates for special offerings from the congregation throughout the year for many of these outreach activities. The church matches these offerings at 50% from the Permanent Opportunity Fund. We continue to support locally, through offerings, the following: LEAVEN, Reach Counseling, Samaritan Counseling, and Community Table and to a broader nationwide outreach: Habitat for Humanity, UCC Christmas Fund, CROP, and UCC One Great Hour of Sharing.

Newcomer outreach and orientation and hospitality before and after worship are offered to connect to our neighbors and friends. Outreach materials, if needed, are funded through the general administration budget and snacks are donated. This ministry will cover 50% of the materials and postage costs for the “card” ministry. A Live Nativity is displayed for the community every Christmas season.

Ministry of Service has a need for volunteers to take a leadership role in the following areas:

1) Membership - Coordinate outreach to visitors and potential new members. Follow up with visitors and collect vital information. Invite them to participate in church activities and provide information about CUCCNM. Facilitate connections to church programs and personnel. Organize events (in coordination with the Pastor) to receive new members into the congregation, nurture and explore spiritual growth and ministry involvement for new members.

2) Hospitality (post COVID) - Duties include recruiting and coordinating Refreshment Servers (post COVID) and providing “Welcome Bags” to visitors and prospective new members. (Judy Doornbos currently prepares the “Welcome Bags”).

3) Community Table Coordinator – Coordinate volunteers to prepare the meal for the free lunch program at St Paul's Church in Neenah six times a year. Also recruit Christmas meal volunteers.