

On behalf of the Deaconess Committee thank you for your willingness to consider being a part of the Helping Hands ministry at Patterson Park. Our committee is privileged to serve individuals and families in their time of need and we truly value and appreciate your support.

We want to give you an idea of how the Helping Hands ministry works. Below are the categories of service with a description and expectations for each. Hopefully they will be helpful to you as you decide in which area(s) you would like to serve.

Visitation: This ministry involves women visiting women and couples who are shut-in, women who are hospitalized and others who request a visit from a woman. Women may also visit men who are in a care facility (hospital, assisted living, nursing home). Sulu Farmer, the Chair of the Visitation Committee will e-mail you with the names and contact information of those in need of visits. At the end of each month you will e-mail Sulu (sulufarmer@gmail.com) with the names of those visited and the date of the visit.

Preparing frozen entrees: These are meals we make ahead of time and keep in the church freezer. They are used for shut-ins and families that need a meal quickly. When we need meals, we will e-mail you and provide you with a prepped freezer bag containing a foil pan with a lid and an instruction sheet.

***Preparing food for funeral meals:** This service provides food for the family meal following the funeral of a PPC member. Clearly, these requests will be on an as-needed basis, and you will be contacted with as much advanced notice as we are given (usually two or three days). The church covers the cost for the meat and more expensive items, but we like to provide donated side dishes, salads and desserts. We will be e-mailing you a link to sign up to help with these needs. This gift of your time, donation and service greatly ministers to a grieving family.

***Decorating and/or Serving at a funeral meal:** You will be contacted to help decorate and set the tables, serve food, and help with clean up following the family meal. As above, you will be e-mailed about two or three days before we need your help.

Providing meals to a family: Again, these are on an as-needed basis. We receive requests from families who are dealing with medical recoveries, pregnancies/deliveries, or crisis situations where meals would be helpful for a couple of days or for two to three weeks at a time. In most cases we will use mealtrain.com to schedule the meals and the link to sign up will be e-mailed to you. These services are a loving act of kindness, and you are ministering as well.

***Serving at all-church functions:** This is a service that helps the deaconesses to serve many people at one time, such as Quarterly Family Gatherings, Christmas at the Park, Annual Meeting and Cookout and other events. We ask our "helping hands" to assist in preparing the food at church and in setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the event. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sending Cards: This is a service of sending thinking-of-you, holiday, sympathy, get well, and encouragement cards to shut-ins, those on the weekly church prayer chain, and deployed military. If you haven't already signed up to receive the weekly prayer chain e-mail, please do so at the church website (www.pattersonpark.org) or call the church office. At the end of each month you will e-mail Lisa Weinstein (Lsweinsteinmd@gmail.com) the Chair of the Deaconess Card Committee, the names of those you sent cards to and the date sent.

Short-term Medical Transportation: This service involves transportation for those who have a short-term medical need such as a ride home from surgery or transportation to a chemo or radiation treatment in the event family members or friends are not available. Women will transport women and men will transport men. When there is a need you will be e-mailed or called to check your availability to meet the need.

Thank you again for considering this ministry! We greatly appreciate your generous desire to serve the Lord and the people of our church in this manner. It truly takes many helping hands.

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*Due to COVID-19, funeral meals and all church events are being done differently. We are using a limited number of Deaconesses and Helping Hands for these events until further notice.