

Growth through Service Opportunities at First UU of Wilmington

Compiled by Suzanne Perry, Volunteer Coordinator

"It is the journey, not the destination that matters most... take advantage of the opportunity to use your service in the church to deepen your spiritual life and further your spiritual journey?"

Eric Walker Wikstrom, Author, "Serving with Grace"

Welcome to our list of volunteer opportunities! We're so glad you're browsing for ways to join in the work of making our church community possible. Please consult the current member directory for email addresses and phone numbers for the individual names in this listing. Each of these committees or teams will be delighted to hear from you!

150th Anniversary Planning Committee: As you may have heard, we will celebrate our 150th Anniversary this spring. This team is currently looking for volunteers to help with a skit, memory boards or a slide show to display our history at the event. There is also talk of creating a scavenger hunt with photos around the church. Contact Co-Chairs Cindy Cohen or Debbi Zarek.

Audit: Ensures church office compliance with standard auditing practices. Contact Paul Pinson or Mark Fries.

Booster Cards: Raise money for the church by helping with promotion and sales of booster cards. Contact Suzanne Proud or Paul Pinson.

Building and Grounds: Just like it sounds... help keep our building and grounds in good working order with weeding, mulching, pruning, snow removal, painting, electrical repairs, and a variety of minor household repairs. Please contact Team Leads Dee Burdash, Phil Krape or Jim Weddell.

Communications: Provide audio-visual, photography, graphics arts or writing and editing services for our website, newsletter and other church communications. Help expand our social media presence. Contact Suzanne Perry or Church Administrator Marina Van Rennssen.

Children and Youth Religious Education: Volunteers are a vital part of our efforts to provide programs for children, youth and families that promote religious and ethical development in an accepting, nurturing, and fun environment. We strive to provide a program which supports parents, children and youth in their spiritual quests while nurturing a sense of belonging. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Catherine Williamson, Director of Religious Exploration, through the church office.

Denominational Growth: The work of this team is focused on growing new congregations in our region. They are looking for help with publicity and assisting in the grants for growth program. Contact Team Lead Vivian Gray.

Greeters: Being a Greeter on Sunday morning is an easy job and very worthwhile. New Greeters are always being added to this robust team of 35. Contact Burley or Helga Melton, Co-leads.

House Pins: Through the sale of house pins, First U is able to raise money for the YWCA of Delaware's housing for homeless women with children. This small, hard-working team would welcome your participation. Contact Team Lead Bev Bach.

Independent Living for Young Adults (ILYA): In our state, foster children “age out” of the foster care system and become independent adults at age 18. Helping these young adults make a successful transition to independence is a vital mission of our church. There are many interesting and rewarding volunteer opportunities with ILYA. Contact Team Lead Lois Morris.

Library: This team strives to maintain our Library as a welcoming and useful resource for First U members and friends. Participation can be flexible and tailored to volunteers' particular interests and availability. An ongoing commitment is appreciated. Please contact Team Lead Judy Windle.

Living Well with Chronic Illness: This new team reaches out to members living with a chronic illness to offer on-going support in a group setting. Volunteers are needed for outreach and leading the group. Contact Co-leads Jim Weddell or Phil Dowd.

Member Engagement and Development: This newly merged team is tackling a broad scope of member engagement, volunteer involvement and leadership development tasks. We welcome your involvement! Contact Nancy Pinson or Suzanne Perry.

Pastoral Care: Members of this team reach out to congregants who are facing unusual stresses or changes in life, experiencing illness or hospitalization, struggling with a recent loss, or who would appreciate someone who can provide companionship during a challenging time. It offers transportation to church and medical appointments as well. Contact: Dale Megill, Lisa Jacobs, Marge Meyerman or Tracy Spinka-Doms.

Social Action: Movement for a Culture of Peace is launching a collective effort to create the first **Delaware Peace Week, Sept. 18–25, 2016**. Join in planning this ambitious collaboration, which will coincide with the observance of International Peace Week. Working together, we envision jointly designing and scheduling a variety of events, exhibits, concerts, and observances across the state—and perhaps even another peace parade in Wilmington! Contact Jeff Lott.

Strategic Planning: Provides the Board with on-going strategic thinking and plans designed to address our present and future challenges. A few new members are needed beginning in May of 2016. Please contact Co-Chairs Linda Sanders and Becky Laster.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): The UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. To join our UUSC team, contact Team Lead Doyle Dobbins.

Ushers: Ushering is a great place for anyone to get actively involved, to meet people and make friends while performing an important service. Please contact Team Leads Barry and Barbara Marrs.

If you have questions about any of this information or would like assistance with getting involved, please contact Suzanne Perry, First UU Wilmington Volunteer Coordinator, via email to suzannefirstchurch@gmail.com or call me: 302-543-6566
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