

# Serving Guide

**Myers Park United Methodist Church mission statement:** We are the body of Christ, growing in faith and serving others.

**Mission's vision statement:** We will strive to educate, empower and move people to #livedifferently beyond the walls locally, nationally and globally.

**Guiding thought:** *When we do mission it's not a matter of being national, local or international. It is a way of life, a commitment, a life style to see the need, walk with the neighbor, and to respond with the love and passion of Jesus Christ. Mission is daily, it's hourly, it's in our very being as a disciple of Christ.*

## Follow the three simple rules from John Wesley -

### 1. Do no harm

- Seek what your neighbors need – don't assume.
- Listen first

### 2. Do Good

- Do ministry with your neighbors
- When you do something good, and you will! – remind yourself you are not just being nice, you are doing what you do as an extension of God's energy.

### 3. Stay in love with God

- Begins through prayer and constant conversation with God
- Giving generously of your prayers, presence, gifts, service and your witness with your neighbors whom you're forming relationships with.

*So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

## PRAY -

When you have your team together to serve start with prayer:

*Gracious God – here we are as your servants ready to be used, ready to connect, and ready to serve with our neighbors. Shape us as you would have us live and lead, renew our eyes to see as you see and mold our hearts through the stories and experiences we encounter as we serve as the Body of Christ. We ask this in the name of the greatest servant of all, Jesus. Amen.*

## Read Scripture -

Next step – read scripture together. The scriptures are the foundational words that shape who we are as we serve and most importantly are the **why** to our service with others. It is crucial that the scripture is applicable and fitting to the mission you are leading and participating in.

## For example serving with children:

**Bad example** – Elisha went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!" When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. 2 Kings 2:23-24

**Good Example** - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is too such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

**Serving –**

Guide your team to be fully present with those you are serving with: fellow teammates, your neighbors, and God. One of our most precious gifts is time, and many people don't experience the presence of loving neighbors as they deserve.

- Learn your neighbor's name – when you know someone's name the game changes
- Ask how you can be in prayer with those you are serving with
- Build trust by extending hospitality with an open heart and listening ears
- Share God's love to all

**Closing –**

When the mission opportunity comes to an end. Sit down and share with one another about their experience and what it meant to serve together. Plan a time to serve together next.

***Remember we don't just lead teams to do good things. We are in the world as disciples seeking ways to spread God's love, develop meaningful relationships, and experience transformation through the teachings of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.***