



WELCOME HOME!

A GOOD START CHECKLIST

We believe your past doesn't have to determine your future, and we are here to cheer you on, provide guidance, and walk with you as you do the hard work to become a positive citizen in your community. Your friends in the United Methodist Church have developed this quick guide to help you restart your future starting today.

PREPARING TO RETURN HOME:

- **Pray** for God's guidance, grace, and presence during your transition time. *"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains."* – Colossians 4:3
- **Trust** in God's provisions and wait patiently for him to work. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."* -- Proverbs 3:5
- **Make** wise choices with the help of a mentor. *"In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short."* – Proverbs 24:14
- **Place** yourself in the path of people who will support you and provide spiritual guidance, like an All In Community church. This connection is available through the Chaplain's office. *"But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him."* – Acts 12:5
- **Make** a reentry plan with your case manager that includes where you will live, parole contact (if necessary), local reentry coordinator for the county you are returning to, and the first three things you need to do. *"Do your planning and prepare your fields before building your house."* – Proverbs 24:27
- **Establish** realistic expectations with an "outside" mentor about what it will be like when you return home. Identify the areas that will be most challenging for you and which relationships will be the most supportive. *"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."* – Proverbs 18:24
- **Work** with prison officials to be clear on date and time of discharge and let your All In Community contact know. *"A wise person chooses the right road; a fool takes the wrong one."* - Ecclesiastes 10:2

RETURNING HOME DURING THE FIRST 72-HOURS:

- **Connect** with an All In Community church for basic needs and spiritual support. *"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."* – Matthew 18:20
- **Check-in** with the local Adult Parole Authority, if necessary. Ask for their guidance in what to do next. Ask them to refer you to local job readiness programs or employers who hire returning citizens. *"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right."* – 1 Peter 2: 13-14
- **Contact** the local reentry coordinator or agency for your county. There is at least one coordinator/coalition for each county in Ohio. They can help you locate the other resources you need. *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."* – Matthew 7:7

