Broad Street UMC

The Ministries of Broad Street United Methodist Church

Mission Statement: We are a building, a place, and a people of inclusive welcome for those seeking justice and relationship for all people.

Practical Reality: Broad Street UMC Mission Center provides free, supportive direct services through multiple programs that reach 30,000 persons affected by homelessness, poverty, addiction, hunger, or incarceration. These outreach activities meet the needs of the diverse population in the downtown area of Columbus, Ohio. They enhance the relational, physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual well-being of those served. The outreach activities include: outreach and hospitality to persons who are unsheltered and/or experiencing homelessness, meal and hospitality program, legal assistance, daily recovery programs, holiday assistance, justice and advocacy efforts, support for incarcerated and returning citizens, mental health and mental illness services, refugee resettlement.

Current Outreach Ministries:

Warming Center / Drop-In Center – Provides a year-round location to rest, charge cell phones, shower, do laundry, be in community, and get connected to life-changing resources available in the community (birth certificates, ID cards, driver licenses, COTA transportation, benefits coordination); run by Columbus Coalition for the Homeless; makes approximately 1,500 contacts each month.

Bethlehem on Broad Street – Provides 700 families/households (approximately 3,000 individuals including children) with a Christmas food box, a Christmas party (in non-COVID times), and other supportive services. This is a coordinated effort with numerous United Methodist Churches from around Columbus, as well as First Congregational UCC Church and their ministry partners.

Manna Café – Provides 100+ meals and compassionate community every Wednesday night to persons living with food insecurity or in hunger crisis. During COVID, meals are to-go only; sponsors are always welcomed.

Restorative Justice – The Interfaith Legal Clinic provides free legal services to 30 persons monthly – administered by the Interfaith Legal Clinic. The Legal Clinic is currently operating virtually only; we expect they will come back when they feel safe doing so.

Missional and Recovery Support Groups – Heart-to-Heart NA meets one day per week (currently only virtually during COVID); 501 AA provides a supportive recovery program (12-Step Program) six days a week.

Partnering with the 30-for-30 Initiative to reach out to incarcerated citizens and support returning citizens.

Supporting Refugees & Immigrants – The resettlement program provided furniture, language training, driver’s training, and financial aid to four Iraqi Christian refugee families as they resettled into the Columbus area. The congregation is currently supporting a Ugandan pastor seeking asylum with housing and has also provided a car and other needs, as well as working with CRIS to support a family of Afghan refugees.

Spiritual Resources – Worship and prayer opportunities are provided in conjunction with all of the ministries and outreach activities, most notably the Open Table communion and weekly prayer (outside of Covid pandemic), and Bible Study.

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