

**Fellowship Committee Report – February 2021**  
**Submitted by Elaine Mercer**

**Committee Members**

Karen Brandes, Rodney Brubaker, Rebekah Douglass, Jean Landis, Elaine Mercer, Sue Miller, Bart Moyer, Osseo Osseo-Asare, Cathy Pierce (If you would like to join, please contact me.)

**Pandemic Service Opportunity – Centre House Shelter**

Since we are not able to gather together for our normal Fellowship meals, the Fellowship Committee proposes that we reimagine the potluck and extend hospitality beyond our congregation to serve our neighbors in need. One proposal is to have our congregation commit to providing meals to the Centre House Emergency Shelter.

Due to the pandemic, Centre House is no longer able to house homeless individuals and families in a group setting. Instead, they are housing guests in individual hotel rooms. As a result, guests no longer have access to kitchen facilities. They only have microwaves in their rooms.

This situation has created the need for daily donations of prepared dinners. Several members of our congregation (Kate Heinzl, Krista Weidner, Evelyn Bartsch, Jessica McCormick, Jean Landis) have provided meals as they are able. However, many slots remain unfilled so we have decided to reach out to others in order to lighten the load. That's why we are contacting you.

If you would be interested in extending fellowship to our neighbors in this way, sign up using Sign Up Genius (link below). The number of guests varies from day to day, ranging from 4 to 20. We recommend that one or two days before the meal and before shopping, call or email Centre House for a head count: 814-424-1029 [dellero@housingtransitions.com](mailto:dellero@housingtransitions.com) .

[Centre House Shelter: Dinner Meal \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

The meal should be at minimum a main course and a dessert, plus perhaps a side dish or salad, fresh fruit, and bread or rolls and butter. It's nice if the food is easily transportable, i.e. pasta or casseroles rather than soup. To make the task an easy and enjoyable one, we recommend that you recruit helpers among your friends and family, or reach out to the UMC congregation by using the sharing list.

Between 9:00am - 2:30pm on your designated day, deliver your prepared food to Centre House at 217 E Nittany Avenue, State College. (That's it! Their staff will divide the food, repackage into individual to-go containers, and deliver to guests at 4pm.) If you want your containers back, the shelter staff will work with you. If you would like help with delivery, the Fellowship Committee will be glad to do it: just contact Jean or Elaine to make arrangements.

We are excited about this opportunity to serve our local community. If you would like to participate and have questions, please let me know.

**Blessings,**

**Elaine Mercer, for the Fellowship Committee**

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