

A HOME-BOUND VISIT

Who am I when I visit?

You are a friend, a Deacon, a servant of Christ, an extension of the body of Christ.

What do I say?

Introduce yourself & connection with the church if you do not know the person.

What do I bring?

A card. Gifts are okay: the Upper Room (a daily devotional available on board by the office), church bulletin, news of church family - but most important is your very presence and companionship. Take your Bible in case the person would like to hear scripture, and take a note pad & pen in case the person is not home or not in their room at the care facility.

Before you visit:

- Prepare for the visit with prayer

During your visit:

- Take off your coat and sit down, to show that you are serious about wanting to visit with this person and you plan to give your full attention.
- Present your card and gift, if you brought one.
- Start conversation by asking how they have been lately. Follow up with a point of interest from the notes you read before the visit. If no notes, then start by asking what they would like to talk about. If no response, then ask them if they want to talk about their family or hobbies. If they say no then talk about church – the last sermon, a past or upcoming event, a hymn the choir sang that really resounded with you, etc.
 - Be patient. If they do not respond right away, give them a minute. Show by your body position & eye contact that you are willing to wait while they think.
- Ask the person if they would like you to pray with them or read from scripture.
- Listen, listen, listen. Acknowledge the person's feelings, both positive and negative. Offer your support and your understanding.
- Ask if there is anything the church could do for them.
- If the person is not home or in their room, leave a note telling of your visit. Go a step further if visiting a care facility by asking if the person is in an activity room.

After the visit:

- Contact the Visitation Coordinator via E-mail about your visit.