



[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org) (include link on page)

**Always seeking candidates for the next Stephen Minister class. Contact any Stephen Leader, Stephen Minister or Pastor for more information.**

**Friendship United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation!**

***Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.  
– Galatians 6:2***

**Stephen Ministry is...** a program of our congregation that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation and community.

**A Stephen Minister is...**a committed Christian who:

- express God's care through their lives to others;
- receives 50 hours of initial training in important caring ministry skills and concepts;
- are commissioned as Stephen Ministers after completing their initial training;
- visit another person regularly and dependably and offer Christian support and care;
- participate in regular support and supervision under the guidance of trained Stephen Leaders or Peer Supervision Facilitators;
- are committed to preserving the confidential nature of the caring relationship;
- receives continuing education and skill building throughout their years of service.

**A Stephen Minister is a Care Giver...GOD is the Cure Giver**

## **Stephen Ministers care for people experiencing...**

- Illness
- Family frustrations and challenges
- Loneliness
- Chronic illness
- Families of the chronically ill
- Loss of a loved one
- Separation or divorce
- Being shut-in
- Having a newborn
- A low self-esteem
- Terminal illness
- Loss of a job
- Financial setbacks
- Struggling with faith in God
- Aging
- Facing life changes
- Retirement
- Miscarriage and Infertility

## **Stephen Ministry care can be obtained by...**

- Identifying a need for distinctively Christian care for you, a friend or a relative.
- Contact the Pastor or a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister.
- A Referrals Coordinator will contact the person in need to explain Stephen Ministry and to get their permission to assign a Stephen Minister.
- A Stephen Minister is assigned to meet with the care receiver on a regular basis to provide distinctively Christian and strictly confidential care.

## **To Support the FUMC Stephen Ministry Program:**

- *Pray* for our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers as they provide Christian care for others.
- *Pray* for all who are receiving confidential care through the Stephen Ministry of our congregation.
- *Tell* Stephen Leaders about those who might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister - be sure to get that person's permission first!
- *Tell* others in our parish community about the availability of our congregation's Stephen Ministry and the care it can provide.
- *Consider serving* as a Stephen Minister.
- *Support* Stephen Ministry with your financial gifts.

### **FUMC Stephen Leaders...**

Greg Kernan – Education & Training

Greg Montgomery – Peer Supervision

Irene Montgomery – Referrals

Warren LaHeist – Referrals

Brenda Page – Awareness & Ownership

Paula Madden – Team Coordinator

### **FUMC Stephen Ministers...**

Barbara LaHeist

Ginger Walls

Margaret Eversfield

Jody Pickens

Larry Myers

Bill Buckley

Betty Miles

Trish Miller

Carol Butler

Sam Guest

Renee Ronan

Linda Thompson

Keith Ulrich

**Pastor Don Stewart** is also a trained Stephen Minister.

***“As I have loved you, so you must love one another” – John 13:34b***

