Grace United Methodist Church

**VISITATION MINISTRY**

**HELPFUL REMINDERS WHEN VISITING**

* Pre-Visit Preparation

Spend time in prayer. As the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, & direct you in what to say to the person, the family, or healthcare staff you may encounter. Take along your Bible, a devotional, your nametag and *especially a cheerful, caring spirit!*

* Call First

 You may want to call the facility to confirm that the person is available.

* Identification

Wear your name tag which helps the staff identify who you are; but most of all it help the person you are visiting know that you are from Grace United Methodist Church.

* Infection Control

Wash your hands before entering and leaving the room.  Use the alcohol sanitizer or soap and water.  Be attentive to any precautionary signs for that room.  If Isolation measures are required, check with the staff and follow the directions.

* Knock before entering the room

 If the person is receiving care from a doctor, nurse or therapist, excuse yourself to the waiting area depending on the length of time it will be.

* Length of visit

 Watch for signs that you should shorten your visit:  If they are drifting off to sleep, looking out the window, grimacing or looking for a nurse... it may be a clue that their care needs outweigh the visit.

* Prayer Request

 Always ask if there is something they would like to share with the church prayer list or the pastors.  This can assure them that their conversation is only shared as they so desire.

* Spiritual Support

 Before leaving ask if you may offer a word of prayer with them and or if they would like for you to read a special scripture. Always have something ready. Provide them a card with your name & Grace Church information before leaving.

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