

BCC CARES

VISITATION & COMMUNION

Volunteer Guidelines As of September 2026

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. - 2 Cor. 1:3-4

VISITATION & COMMUNION MISSION

The Visitation & Communion Ministry exists to help people in our church family experience the presence, comfort, and care of Jesus during seasons of sickness, hospitalization, recovery, aging, and end-of-life care.

Through **radical hospitality, sacrificial generosity, and uncommon humility**, volunteers offer something simple but meaningful: their presence.

Sometimes care looks like sitting quietly beside someone. Sometimes it looks like listening, praying, sharing Scripture, bringing encouragement, or celebrating Communion together.

You are not expected to have all the answers or to be professional caregivers, counselors, chaplains, or medical professionals. We are ordinary people who offer the same comfort and compassion we have received from God to others.

You don't have to fix anything, be a theological expert, or have all the right words. The best gift you can offer is your presence and comfort.

WHO DO WE VISIT?

People may request visits through beaverton.cc/care. After someone requests a visit, you have the opportunity as a volunteer to coordinate with us to visit that person.

We visit people who may be:

- Hospitalized or recovering from an illness or procedure
- Receiving hospice or end-of-life care
- Living in assisted living, skilled nursing, or memory care
- Homebound or unable to regularly attend church

- Experiencing a significant or extended illness
- Recovering at home
- Facing a difficult season and would benefit from encouragement and companionship
- Family members or caregivers who may themselves need encouragement and prayer

Visits should always be in agreement with and welcomed by the person being visited or, when appropriate, their family/caregiver. Call the family, Adoption Foster Care Home, Hospital, or Facility before making the visit to confirm if it's a good time and something they want.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who are compassionate, trustworthy, dependable, and willing to listen.

As a BCC Cares Visitation & Communion volunteer, you are not expected to be a pastor or have specialized training in pastoral care.

We ask that volunteers:

- Be a regular participant in the BCC community.
- Complete the **BCC Cares volunteer application [here](#)**.
- Once you fill out our application, a staff member will reach out to you to schedule a time to connect with you about the BCC Cares team.
- Be willing to serve all people, even those with different needs, personalities, backgrounds, and levels of spiritual interest.
- Understand that the person being visited determines what they are comfortable discussing, including whether they would like to pray, read Scripture, or receive Communion.

WHAT A CARE VISIT LOOKS LIKE

The Volunteer team will all be notified when someone requests a visit from the BCC Cares team on our website at beaverton.cc/care.

Before visiting someone who requested a visit:

1. **Let the Care Lead know you're available and interested in visiting in the BCC Cares thread.**
2. **Once confirmed with the Care Lead, call or contact the person who requested the visit.** This might be the person who wants the visit, or a friend / family member who made the request on their behalf. Introduce yourself as a part of the Care team at BCC. Ask if they would like a visit and when would be a good time to visit.
3. **Ask if there is anything they would like during the visit:** They may want company, prayer, Communion, conversation, or simply someone to sit with them.

4. **Respect their answer.** They might not be up for a visit.

During the visit, please:

- Be present and listen.
- Ask questions and show genuine interest.
- Be comfortable with silence. They may not be able to speak.
- Offer prayer if welcomed.
- Offer Scripture or Communion when appropriate and welcomed.
- Encourage without minimizing what the person is experiencing.
- Keep the visit at a length that works for the person typically around 30 minutes.
- Thank them for allowing you to spend time with them.

VISITING IN HOSPITALS, HOSPICE & CARE FACILITIES

When visiting a hospital or hospice patient:

- Check in at the front desk.
- Follow the facility's visitor check-in procedures.
 - Sign-in when required.
 - Wear a visitor badge or name tag when provided.
 - Follow all facility instructions regarding visitors, infection control, masks, isolation precautions, and visiting hours.
- Respect requests from medical staff when they need to provide care or if it's not a good time.
- Do not give medical advice or make recommendations about treatment.

Security and visitation procedures can vary considerably between facilities. Some may simply ask you to check in and wear a name tag. Others may have more restrictive procedures, particularly in memory care, assisted living, foster/adoption settings, or other environments serving vulnerable people. Memory Care Facilities will require a staff member to direct you to the memory care section and open the door for you.

When in doubt, ask the facility staff what is required and follow their direction.

HOME VISITS

Home visits are an extension of **radical hospitality**. We enter another person's home as invited guests, with humility, respect, and without judgment or expectation.

As a home visitor:

- Arrange the visit in advance whenever possible.
- Respect the person's home, routines, privacy, and boundaries.

- Thank them and say goodbye for the day if the person indicates that they need privacy or rest.

Whenever possible, volunteers are encouraged to use good judgment about one-on-one home visits. If a situation feels uncomfortable, unsafe, or inappropriate, please depart.

WHAT WILL YOU DO DURING YOUR VISIT?

During your visit you may offer:

- Friendship and companionship
- Socialization
- A listening ear
- Encouragement
- Prayer
- Reading Scripture
- Music
- Positive presence
- Communion

Don't feel like every visit needs to include a spiritual conversation. We meet people where they are.

COMMUNION

People might ask to take communion with you. You can bring communion cups from your church location with you during your visit, to have them on hand.

- Ask whether the person would like to receive Communion.
- Explain simply what you are offering if they are unfamiliar with the practice: remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us and celebrating the grace we have received through Him.
- A helpful text to guide your time together for taking communion is 1 Corinthians

11:23-26:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

CONFIDENTIALITY

People may share deeply personal information during a care visit. We treat that trust with respect.

As a general rule: What someone shares with you should remain private.

Do not share someone's medical condition, family circumstances, personal struggles, or other private information with others.

At the same time, confidentiality does not mean keeping dangerous information secret.

If someone communicates that they may harm themselves or someone else, reports abuse or neglect, or there is another serious concern about someone's safety, contact the Care Team Lead, BCC Pastoral Staff or emergency resource rather than attempting to handle the situation alone.

A SIMPLE REMINDER

When you visit someone, please:

CALL: Ask if they would like a visit.

INTRODUCE: Tell them who you are and that you are from BCC.

CHECK IN: Follow the facility's visitor procedures.

BE PRESENT: Listen, encourage, pray, or simply sit with them.

RESPECT: Follow their wishes and the facility's rules.

FOLLOW UP: If there is a need beyond your visit, let the BCC Care Team know.

Thank you for helping us be a church where people experience the love of Jesus through **radical hospitality, sacrificial generosity, uncommon humility, and simple acts of care.**