

Loaves & Fish Volunteer Guidelines

Loaves and Fish is a weekly feeding ministry of First United Methodist Church Peoria providing a free hot meal, food pantry, worship service, educational assistance, clothing room and medical clinic to those in need each Saturday. Begun in 1994, Loaves & Fish serves from 250 - 375 guests weekly. It works because of volunteers like you! If you liked serving, please keep coming and tell your friends. If you did not like what you did, talk to a Loaves & Fish Coordinator (blue apron) so we can work with you to use your gifts where they work best and you feel more comfortable.

Hours (9:30 am – 1:45 pm): Arrive no later than 9:30 am and plan to stay until 1:45 pm. **Enter the church through the door in the alley between the Peoria Public Library and the church.**

Parking: You may park in the church lot at Hamilton & Perry, in the Library lot, in the church lot across Perry Ave or at a meter on the street. Meter parking is free on Saturdays.

Questions: A mandatory meeting begins at 9:45 am to review Health Department guidelines, job assignments, answer questions and address other pertinent information. If you are late and miss the meeting, you may not be allowed in the building. The Loaves & Fish coordinators will be wearing blue aprons if you have questions during the day.

Volunteers: Volunteers must be at least 10 years old. Groups with children aged 10 – 15 must have one adult present for every five children. Those 16 years and up can volunteer unaccompanied by an adult. Individuals who are registered sex offenders cannot volunteer.

Proper Attire: You should wear comfortable, **closed toe shoes**. Long hair must be pulled back or in a hair net. Clothing must be modest, clean and non-revealing.

Food: Volunteers are offered a continental light breakfast when they arrive and a light snack again at 11:00 am. Volunteers do not eat with guests. We begin serving guests at 11:30 am. If there are extra perishable items from the take home table, the L&F Coordinator will let you know if items are available for volunteers.

Personal Belongings: Leave purses, coats, cell phones in the trunk of your locked vehicle. Personal items you need to bring can be locked up, but can only be retrieved before the end of your volunteer time in case of an emergency. Headphones are not allowed. Use of cell phones in any manner during your volunteer shift is not allowed. Smoking of any kind (cigarettes or e-cigarettes) is not permitted on church property. Volunteers cannot take a smoke break.

Community Service Hours: The L&F Coordinator (blue apron) who gave you your job assignment is the only person who can sign your paperwork. It is your responsibility to make sure the paperwork required is completed according to your particular needs.