

Encouraging Ensemble Initiative

Purpose: Encouraging and loving well our seniors and those who care for them

Biblical Motivation: “So even to old age ad gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.” (Ps 71:18)

The Encouraging Ensemble initiative speaks directly to the desires expressed in this Psalm. First, to those who feel alone and lonely, who cry to the Lord not to be forgotten; and second, the cry of the aged within the Body of Christ to continue to proclaim God’s faithfulness to those generations coming up behind.

The Body of Christ answers both of these needs by being His Hands and Feet and serving those who are lonely and alone and aged. When serving the more elderly among us, the younger generations have the privilege of hearing the stories of God’s faithfulness carried into old age.

Finally, Galatians, 6:10 says, “..as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” This is God’s instruction to us to serve our brothers and sisters in the faith who need our help. The Encouraging Ensemble comes alongside the caregivers and their loved ones by providing encouragement and support through a visit that allows the caregiver safe time away from the responsibilities of caregiving.

Expectations:

- 1) Time Commitment: This can vary significantly from a one-time visit for an hour or two to a regular weekly visit to the same household or different households
- 2) Health: Especially in this time of Covid, good health and lack of any symptoms of cold, flu or Covid is vital.
- 3) PCC Association: We ask that any Encouragers be regular attenders in good standing, well known by the leadership at PCC
- 4) Encouraging the Encouragers: EEI’s leadership will keep in regular contact with encouragers to make sure questions, needs and issues are being addressed
- 5) Sign-up: There are two ways to become involved. 1) reach out to one of the EEI leaders (listed below) to plug in to a regular time of visiting one particular household; 2) if desired, once a relationship is established between an encourager and a household, visiting times may be scheduled directly between the parties
- 6) What EEI encouragers are not: There is **no** expectation of house cleaning (light or heavy), help with toileting or cooking
- 7) What does the encourager do?: See variables below, but depending on the comfort level of both parties and the mental acuity of the elder, jigsaw puzzles, looking at photos, playing a game, chatting/listening to the stories of a lifetime, watching tv together, and just being present are some of the ways to engage during your visit.

Variables:

- 1) Children: Some of the households would benefit from the enthusiasm and lightheartedness a well-behaved child brings into life. The EEI coordinator will answer any questions you might have about whether children would be welcome and encouraged to visit with you
- 2) Groups: Entering the home of an elderly person who you don’t know well can feel intimidating. Feel free to do this in pairs. We do ask, however, that you not visit in groups larger than 2 (plus 1 or 2 well-behaved children)

Contacts: Chris Wissmann at cywiss12@gmail.com; Chris Hamilton at chamilton@pencomchap.com