

New Year, New President

Denise Chambers



Who am I? I am a member of Crestview Presbyterian Church in West Chester. After a career in finance and market research, I have been a Faith Alliance volunteer since 2011. In 2015 former Director of Outreach Sue Mahlock and I founded the precursor to our current Summer Literacy Program teaching students from our Lakota Summer Lunch communities who were at risk of falling behind in reading during the summer school break.

Who is The Faith Alliance to me? I see it as the body of Jesus Christ through his churches working together with community partners to assist those who struggle to meet the daily needs of their families including food, clothing, and educational resources. I support the Vision and Mission of The Faith Alliance to bring God's love, hope and joy to all and to alleviate poverty in West Chester and Liberty Township.

What motivates me to serve with The Faith Alliance? Christ has called me to love my neighbor as my own family; he has given me gifts and talents and called me to use them through his body, the church, in my local community.

- Matthew 22: Love your neighbor as yourself
- 1 Peter 4: 10-11 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

How do I see people of Christ serving our local neighbors—the West Chester/Liberty Township

community? Jesus tells us in the story of the Good Samaritan who our neighbor is and what it means to love our neighbor. In the Gospel of Luke a Samaritan encounters a Jewish man victimized by robbers away from his family, home, and community. The Samaritan meets the man not of his faith, viewed as racially different, and therefore hated for these differences. He should have walked away but instead he provided medical help, transportation, and financial assistance for the wounded man's recovery. This is Jesus' story and he is in the midst of it. He is our Good Samaritan coming to earth to provide healing, passage on our life journey, and the physical, emotional and spiritual assistance we need daily.

We are called to be the Good Samaritan in our West Chester/Liberty Township community. In 2024, as we have done since 2011, we can:

- tutor this WINTER at Creekside and Wyandot Schools,
- in the SPRING collect for our Feed Our Neighbor food drive,
- in the SUMMER serve lunches and smiles at our 4 lunch sites,
- and ALL YEAR long provide Community dinners at West Chester Presbyterian and Faith Community UMC.

The Faith Alliance gives our member churches, community partners and local volunteers the opportunity to be Good Samaritans. We will:

- MEET our neighbors—everyone, no limitations.
- SERVE our neighbors—material, physical help not just good wishes.
- PRAY for our neighbors—God at the center of the relationship between us and our neighbors.
- SHARE the God's love, hope and joy with our neighbors—real, authentic and plain-spoken.

"Love your neighbor as yourself". Whether that is the person in the house or apartment next door or in the apartment complex or mobile home park across the highway, The Faith Alliance network of churches and community partners are here in West Chester and Liberty Township meeting, serving, praying, and sharing our real, authentic, and explicit love of God with our neighbors.