

Community Dinners Roles

2026-2027

Ministry Leader/Co-Leaders (1-2 per semester)

This person(s) is responsible for growing the team of volunteers, supporting and encouraging ministry participants, anticipating and resolving challenges, and fostering effective communication between volunteers, staff and other stakeholders. They work in partnership with the Staff Liaison and Clergy Champion on planning, facilities, finances, marketing and other church resources. The person(s) in this role serves for a full semester.

Head Chef (1 per week)

This person and their team are responsible for preparing and serving the food for their designated meal and for facilitating kitchen clean-up, including dishwashing. They also recruit and coordinate the work of the Meal Coordinator and Kitchen Team volunteers. See *Head Chef Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Co-Head Chef (1 per week)

This person ensures that the necessary food and supplies are procured for each meal. They work closely with the Head Chef to ensure they have what is needed for the meal within the designated budget. See *Meal Coordinator Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Kitchen Team (4+ per week)

Volunteers in this role support the Head Chef with preparing and serving the food for their designated meal and assist with kitchen clean-up. They also invite others to join the team. See *Kitchen Team Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Clean Up Crew (2 per week)

Volunteers in this role support the Head Chef and Kitchen Crew by cleaning up after serving the meal which includes sweeping the kitchen and removing all kitchen trash. They also invite others to join the team. See *Kitchen Team Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Front of House Lead (1 per week)

This person and their team are responsible for room setup, room clean-up, beverage service, guest check-in, guest hospitality (e.g., decorations, entertainment, etc.) and future reservations. They also recruit and coordinate the work of the Front of House Team volunteers. See *Front of House Lead Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Front of House Team (2-3 per week)

Volunteers in this role support the Front of House Lead with room setup, room clean-up and beverage service and assist with guest hospitality. They also invite others to join the team. See *Front of House Team Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Check In and Sell Meals (2 per week)

Volunteers in this role check those who have pre-paid for their meals, and sell to walk-ins, as well as individuals who want to purchase future meals. This Volunteer supports the Front of House Lead with room setup, room clean-up and beverage service and assist with guest check-in, guest hospitality, and reservations. They also invite others to join the team. See *Front of House Team Checklist* for specifics. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Sell Bridge Bread (1 per week)

Volunteers in this role set up a table with provided signage and baskets, sell the provided Bridge Bread products, and put away table, baskets, chair and signage. Volunteers can choose which week(s) they serve in this role.

Staff Liaison

This person partners with and supports the Ministry Co-Leaders and is a liaison to church staff to ensure support around planning, facilities, finances, marketing and other church resources. This person also assists the Check-In volunteer and helps sell future meals.

Clergy Champion

This person advocates and champions the program throughout the faith community and assists with program vision and strategic planning.

Updated 7/2026

Community Dinners

2026-2027 Plan

Ministry Objective:

Foster multi-generational relationships and discipleship at Manchester UMC through food and programs.

Desired Ministry Outcomes:

- Provide a convenient and affordable meal option for all generations and life stages
- Create connections and deepen relationships within the congregation
- Engage more people in weekly discipleship through serving and learning opportunities
- Offer participants an easy way to invite others to experience Manchester UMC
- Foster greater collaboration among all Wednesday evening programs and participants

Goals:

1. Offer meals 5:30 to 6:30p on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall
2. Food and supplies cost-per-meal should not exceed \$8 per person
3. One hot meal is provided
4. Adults receive full portion size while children receive smaller portion size of same meal
5. Rotating food menu (can repeat meal option every 4 to 6 weeks if desired)
6. Meals should appeal to multi-generations and at least one per month should be kid oriented
7. Bridge Bread will have a table with desserts for sale
8. Community Dinners offered:
Fall: Sept. 9 to Nov. 18, 2026 (11 meals)
Winter: Jan. 13 – Mar. 10, 2027 (9 meals)
Spring: Mar. 31 – Apr. 28, 2027 (5 meals)
9. Meal Pricing:
 - a. \$7 per adult / \$3 per child (12 and under) / \$20 max per household
 - b. Adult Semester Passes:
Fall 2026 = \$70 for 11 meals Winter 2027 = \$56 for 9 meals Spring 2027 = \$28 for 5 meals
 - c. Child Semester Passes
Fall 2026 = \$30 for 11 meals Winter 2027 = \$24 for 9 meals Spring 2027 = \$12 for 5 meals
 - d. Household Semester Passes:
Fall 2026 = \$200 for 11 meals Winter 2027 = \$160 for 9 meals Spring 2027 = \$80 for 5 meals
10. Partner with Children, Choir, Youth and Adult Faith Formation staff and leaders to recruit a collective total of 10 new Community Dinner volunteers from their programs.
11. Invite other ministry groups (e.g., Choirs, Class Leaders, Missions, etc.) to perform/present during Community Dinners.
12. Evaluate at the end of the Fall semester and implement changes for Winter/Spring 2027