

Welcome to the Sunday Cabaret!

What is the Sunday Cabaret? In general, the way to understand the 'need' that the Sunday Cabaret meets in the community can best be described as: providing an opportunity for a free dinner and a night out for individuals and families that cannot typically afford to do that.

The evening is basically a dinner that starts being served at 5pm, followed by a program that begins no later than 6pm. The program lasts for no more than an hour and is completed by 7pm.

Following is a schedule for a typical Sunday Cabaret. Following the basic schedule is a more detailed description of what the Dinner Church and Program Church do on a Cabaret Night.



Volunteers and Basic Schedule For Putting On The Sunday Cabaret

Number of Volunteers needed for a Sunday Cabaret:

A Minimum of 8 – 12 Volunteers Are Needed.

(not counting the volunteer needs for the program itself)

The work of putting on a Sunday Cabaret is broken up into two parts that are typically shared by two churches (or community organizations sometimes). *Occasionally* a Cabaret is put on by a single church or organization, but that is the exception. Part of the point of the Sunday Cabaret is to have churches work together.

The two parts are the Dinner and the Program.

Dinner Church Volunteers: 6-8 people are needed to prepare and serve dinner and refreshments at the program.

Program Church Volunteers: at least 2-4 people are needed to help set up tables and chairs in the room where the program is held. The program being presented determines how many volunteers will be needed overall.



The Basic Schedule:

3:15ish PM (4-5 people): The Dinner church volunteers preparing dinner (4-5 people) should arrive around 3:15 and no later than 3:30.

3:30ish PM: The Program Church Volunteers need to arrive with enough time to have them complete set up for the program before 5:00 PM so they can go and have dinner with the community guests. If that means the volunteers need to get there by 2PM because the program takes lots of prep, that is when they need to arrive to be done by 5:00!

4:00 PM (2-3 people): The volunteers from the Dinner Church that are setting up and serving refreshments (2-3 people) for the during the program need to arrive



no later than 4:00 PM, and their set up needs to be completed before 5:00 PM so they can go and have dinner with the community guests.

4:30ish PM: The volunteers in the kitchen eat dinner at 4:30ish before the kitchen opens for Dinner at 5:00PM.

5:00 PM: Dinner begins being served at 5:00 PM and wraps up between 5:30 and 6:00 PM, depending on how busy it is. Clean up in the kitchen by the volunteers is generally completed no later than 6:30 PM.

5:45ish – 6:00 PM: The program begins after dinner but no later 6:00 PM. It sometimes starts a bit earlier if dinner goes quickly. Generally, it starts between 5:45 and 6:00 PM.

6:45ish – 7:00 PM: The program ends no later than 7:00 PM. Clean up for the program is depends on what the program was, but is generally completed no later than 8:00 PM and usually by 7:30 or so.

More Details About Putting On The Cabaret

For the Dinner Church:

Total Volunteers Needed is 6-8. The Dinner Church will be providing help with (1) preparing and serving the dinner and (2) providing refreshments for the program.

1. Community Missions provides all the stuff needed for dinner. Sometimes a church wants a special dinner (eg. corned beef around St. Patrick's Day). In that case the church may provide the ingredients or make a donation to cover the Mission ordering what is needed.
 - a. To prepare and serve dinner, about 4-5 volunteers are needed from about 3:15 or so (for prep). Please have these volunteer arrive no later than 3:30pm. Prep is generally finished at about 4:30pm, at which time the volunteers eat dinner themselves (they eat dinner is in the community kitchen and they have what everyone else is having.) These volunteers then serve dinner to the kitchen guests beginning at 5pm. Dinner begins to slow down around 5:30 and clean up starts while the last of the community guests come in. Following Dinner these volunteer clean up the kitchen. They are typically done by 6:30 at the latest (unless dinner was extremely busy). When cleanup is completed, these kitchen volunteers can either head home or go over the Community Room for the balance of the evening's program.
2. An additional 2-3 volunteers are needed to help set up the Community Room for the refreshments which are provided during the program. These volunteers need to get to the Mission with enough time to complete setup by 5pm so they can then go down to the kitchen to have dinner with our community guests. Typically 4:00 PM leaves enough time. They are of course welcome to come earlier if they wish.
 - a. The Dinner church also provides the refreshments. Types of refreshments vary. It could be cake, cookies, ice cream sundays, fresh popcorn, etc. It's really up to you. Also provide some kind of drinks such as juice or fruit punch, as well as bottled water. The Mission provides coffee and plates, cups, plastic utensils, etc. as needed. (Note that it is always a good idea to communicate with the program church about the refreshments. Maybe a special refreshment would go with the program. Churches working together is a big part of the Sunday Cabaret.)

We average around 20 to 30 people from the community at the program with a low of 15 and high of 60 (but only when we have Bingo!). In general I advise the refreshment volunteer group to bring refreshments for at least 40ish people. (If there are left over refreshments they can be brought over to the shelter for the residents to enjoy later in the evening before bed.) The program is over by 7pm at the latest, and clean up generally takes about 30ish minutes. So the volunteers taking care of the refreshments can generally be out the door by 7:30ish pm.

For the Program Church:

A Minimum of 2-4 Volunteers is Needed to set the tables and chairs for the Cabaret.

Additionally, the program church provides however many other volunteers are needed to put on the program.

Whatever the number of volunteers and type of setup you need may be, the setup should be completed no later than 5:00 PM so the volunteers from the church can go down into the kitchen and have dinner with the community guests. That is integral for the Cabaret: being able to sit down and break bread with people... to have fellowship around the table. It lets the community members know that they are valued. Therefore, please plan to arrive with enough time to set up and how early that needs to be depends on the program. Please plan well.

A bit about the programs.

The programs offered at the Sunday Cabaret have included: A Chalk Artist, Clown groups, Magicians, Clown's that are Magicians, Bingo with free prizes, Games Night, Movie nights, Church Praise Bands, Choirs, Bell Choirs, individual musicians, a Ukulele Band, and Craft Nights. A few programs included a time of testimonials from youth groups.

Over the several seasons of the Cabaret, more and more of the programs have skewed towards music performances. Music is great. People always like it!! But it is also important to balance the cabaret with other programs that include the attendees in the action. Some things, like say a magician, both present an entertainment to watch and include the audience. The point here is that for the Sunday Cabaret to be, well the Sunday Cabaret, it needs to have a variety of programs. Use your imagination!

There is one other reason for the programs to be diverse. Those interactive types of programs often involve more church members than happens when a band or musician is commissioned by the church to play.

Parking:

For all volunteers, they can park in the lot on the far right of the missions' two buildings (by the large pine tree) and enter through the main entrance (in the left building under the large Community Missions sign on the roof of the awning). See the picture to the right. >>>>>>>

An Important Note!!!

The way the night runs, there is sometimes down time for the volunteers. I know it sounds like a lot, but the work involved is fairly limited. That's ok. There primary focus of the night for volunteers needs to be spending time being with the community (and the volunteers from the other church/organization putting on the Cabaret) during dinner and the program. It is about breaking bread together and being present as part of a community. That is where the



← West (Towards The Falls)

Community Missions

uniqueness and power of the Sunday Cabaret initiative lay: *being in community with others*. That being the case, it is perfectly ok to invite others besides the volunteers to come: family members; other congregation members (in the case of churches), etc. Have them come a bit before dinner (5pm) to eat in the kitchen and attend the program. Sometimes people choose to come only to the program. I do ask one thing: *If you expect you will bring a large number of "extra" people (say more than 10 in addition to the volunteers putting on the Sunday Cabaret), just let us know in advance so we can prepare. Remember, Everyone is Welcome!*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Peace,

Pastor Mark

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