

Room In The Inn

Belmont United Methodist Church

Belmont UMC is one of the churches in the Nashville area that provides a safe, warm place for homeless persons to stay overnight two Friday nights a month from November through March and receive three meals (dinner, breakfast, and a sack lunch). This ministry is provided in association with the Room In The Inn, a non-profit organization founded by Father Charles Strobel. Belmont's Homeless Ministries Team oversees the ministry.

RITI Guidelines – 2025/26

These are the instructions for each volunteer role involved, including setup instructions and an hour-by-hour schedule for conducting the RITI program at Belmont. [These instructions are posted on the Belmont UMC website located under the Ministries and Outreach tab.]

1. Class/Group Coordinator
2. Friday/Saturday Drivers (1 each way)
3. Overnight Hosts (2)
4. Food Preparers and Servers - 4
5. Linen laundry helpers – 1 or 2 for Saturday pick-up
6. BUMC RITI Coordinator – provided by BUMC

Community Center Access

RITI access code to Community Center is 0432# (hit the pound sign after the number) and works Fridays 3 pm to 11 pm, Saturdays 5 am to 10 am

Kitchen cabinet lock code is 1331.

Bus Updates

Bus to pick up guests is parked at Leah Rose Senior Center, 1900

Acklen Avenue, and there is a key fob with the bus key packet to access Leah Rose gates. Driver may drive to Leah Rose and park their car for the night, drive the bus and leave in the parking lot overnight.

Bus drivers must be 25 to 74 years old. They should contact Angie at aslade@belmontumc.org a month before they drive if they have never driven the bus since they need to schedule bus training.

Sunday School Class Coordinator

The Class Coordinator recruits the volunteers in the class to fill the various roles required to conduct the program on a single Friday. They also are the liaison between the class and the designated RITI Coordinator. The following are their duties:

1. Recruit the following volunteers from the class:
 - Bus drivers (1 at 5 pm Friday night and 1 at 6 am Saturday morning)
 - Overnight hosts (2)
 - Volunteers to set up 14 beds with sheets and pillows, help set the tables and prepare toiletries for guests (at least 2)
 - Food preparers and servers – (recommend 4)
 - Volunteers to pick up and wash linen sheets and towels, return to RITI before following Friday
2. Provide the volunteers instructions for their specific duties.
3. Serve as liaison with the RITI Coordinator.
4. Communicate the name of the driver(s) to Angie Slade, aslade@belmontumc.org, on Tuesday before they drive.
5. Be present on Friday by 5 pm to oversee and assist with setup.

RITI Drivers

Each driver must be an approved driver for the Belmont UMC bus/van. **To become approved, they must complete the required paperwork and receive an orientation to the bus/van.** The required paperwork is obtained from Angie Slade, aslade@belmontumc.org, who will also arrange for the van orientation. The following are the driver duties:

1. Arrive by 5:00 pm and pick up the RITI van packet from the cubby located on the counter in the reception area at the back entrance to the church (across from the Community Center). The packet contains the van keys, a trip report form, and map.
2. **Bus to pick up guests is parked at Leah Rose Senior Center, 1900 Acklen Avenue, and there is a key fob with the bus directions to access Leah Rose gates. Driver may drive to Leah Rose and park their car for the night, drive the bus and leave in the parking lot overnight.**
3. Open the van and confirm there is sufficient gas for the two trips to the Campus for Human Development. Check to see that the vehicle is clean and the lights and passenger door are working. Record the mileage on the trip report located in the packet.
4. At 5:20 pm drive to the Campus for Human Development (705 Drexel Street, 37203) and pick up 12 overnight guests. When picking up the guests, you will receive 12 blankets for the night and a list with the guest names.
5. Drive to Belmont UMC and escort the guests into the Community Center.
6. Arrive at 5:45 am Saturday morning, load the guests and blankets on the van, and drive to the Campus for Human Development. The van should leave for the Campus for Human Development by 6:00 am.
7. Unload the men and blankets and turn in the RITI report that has been completed by one of the overnight hosts.
8. Drive to Belmont UMC and park the van in the designated spot. Clean out bus/van.
9. Complete the trip report and place the RITI van packet on one of the tables in the Community Center. The custodian will return the packet to the cubby in the church.

Overnight Hosts (2)

The 2 Overnight Hosts are in charge for the evening. They serve as host for the guests, making them feel welcome, answering questions, and overseeing the services provided (clean bed, towels, toiletries, food, laundry, etc.). One of the two hosts could also be one of the drivers if they have completed the necessary paperwork with Angie Slade.

1. Serve as host and overall leader for the evening.
2. Arrive by 5 pm and lead setting up for the evening.
 - **Code for Community Center keypad is 0432#.**
 - Instructions are in the RITI Cabinet, in the kitchen along with a first aid kit. They are also on the church website.
 - **Kitchen cabinet lock code is 1331**
3. Volunteers will do the following starting at 5 pm:
 - Set up serving table and dining tables for dinner using supplies in the RITI closet and kitchen cabinet.
 - Place a fitted and top sheet on each mattress and place the pillow in the pillowcase and on the bed, they are located in the storage closet.
 - Place the two toiletry supply units with soap, shampoo, etc. on the table near door to the gym. On the same table set out towels, washcloths, underwear and socks.
 - Place one of the grey RITI linen bins by the restroom doors for dirty linen.
 - Place another empty grey linen bin in the middle of the gym for guests to put their sheets and pillow cases in the morning.
 - Set up the TV/VCR for movies along with about 5 chairs in the vestibule area

WELCOME SPEECH

After guests have arrived and deposited their belongings by their chosen bed, invite them to have a seat at one of the tables and give the Welcome Speech. Points to cover in the Welcome Speech:

- Introduce yourself, the second host and the Sunday School class providing food and serving.
- This is a ministry of Belmont UMC to extend Christian hospitality.
- We are pleased to have them as our guests.
- Directions to the restrooms and shower rooms.
- Showers can be taken this evening after dinner, but not in the morning.
- We prefer they use the men's restroom but if those showers are full, the women's can be used.
- Towels, washcloths, and toiletries are available on the table by the door, body wash and shampoo are in the showers.
- Please place wet towels in the basket outside the bathrooms
- Smoking is allowed outside. Place butts in the can outside the door.
- Door will be locked at about 9:30 pm. If you need to go outside, use the buddy system to get back inside, as the door will lock when closed. (A block of wood is provided to keep the door from closing if necessary.)
- Lead or invite a guest to lead a prayer of blessing for the food and the evening.
- WIFI password is located on a sheet in a plastic display, set on the serving table.

HOSTING REST OF EVENING

1. Stay overnight on one of the beds provided. Bring your pillow, blanket or sleeping bag.
2. Complete the RITI report. Give to one of the drivers for return to the Campus.
3. Awake by 5:00 am, make coffee, set up breakfast for self service.
4. Wake the guests by 5:15 am and serve breakfast. Set out the sack lunches.
5. Ask the guests to help restack the mattresses and pillows in the storage room and stack the bed frames folded on their side **close to the door to the left of the RITI closet door.**
6. Inspect the restrooms and gather up any towels, washcloths, and any left toiletry items.
7. Gather the used linens and towels. Place these in one of the bins used to store linens and towels. Place the bins with the used linens on a bench in the vestibule of the Community Center for later pick up by washing volunteers.
8. Place the 12 blankets on the bus for return to the Campus for Human Development.
9. Clean up after breakfast. Gather all the trash and take to the dumpster.

Food Preparers and Servers

Food is a very important part of this ministry and should be provided in generous quantities.

EVENING MEAL FOR 12 GUESTS PLUS VOLUNTEERS, USUALLY 16 TO 18 TOTAL

- Main dish
- Vegetables – couple of options
- Bread or rolls
- Salad
- Dessert
- BUMC provides coffee, water, tea, hot chocolate, hot tea.

BREAKFAST

- Coffee – provided from RITI team
- Cereal
- Muffins
- Fruit
- Orange juice
- Milk
- Warm casseroles can also be served but are not required

12 SACK LUNCHES TO INCLUDE:

- 1 gallon plastic bags for lunches – provided in RITI kitchen cabinet
- two sandwiches,
- bag of chips
- soft fruit such as bananas and oranges
- soft cookies or brownies in individual baggies or applesauce/pudding cups with plastic spoon
- Individual juice/drink box. There should be 12 sack lunches.

DINNER

Friday night dinner should be prepared and delivered to the Community Center no later than 5:30 pm.

- **We recommend that all hot food is delivered hot and can be sent in crock pots to remain hot.**
- **We have convection ovens if needed and the coordinator can show you how to turn on the gas line then turn off when finished.**

Servers Duties

1. Arrive by 5 pm. Find the RITI supplies in the RITI Cabinet in the kitchen.
2. RITI cabinet has a lock, use code 1331 to unlock.
3. Place plastic tablecloths on the serving tables and the round eating tables.
4. Set salt and pepper shakers and hot sauce (find in the RITI refrigerator) on the tables.
5. Set out the paper plates, cups (cold and hot) and utensils on the serving table. Plastic utensils and paper napkins, plates and cups are available in the RITI Cabinet.
6. There are also metal utensils in a tray. If metal eating and serving utensils are used, they must then be washed in the large sinks across from the dishwasher in the rear of the kitchen and returned to the trays where found. Soap, dishcloths, and towels are in the RITI Cabinet.
7. Make coffee. The RITI coffee pot, coffee and filters are on the RITI cart in the RITI closet.
8. Use the electric teakettle to heat water for hot chocolate and hot tea. Hot chocolate packets, tea bags, sugar, artificial sweetener, and creamer are on the RITI cart.
9. Get ice from the kitchen ice machine and put into large bowl on the table with a scoop.
10. Serve food, eat with guests.
11. Clean up after the meal. Servers should take all left over food home or leave in the cooler for transport to RITI on Saturday morning.

Linen Laundry Volunteers – Sheets and Towels

Pick up the laundry bins with sheets, towels and overnight clothes. Take home for washing, drying and folding. Return the clean linens and towels by Friday afternoon to the Community Center in front of the RITI closet doors.

Room In The Inn Suggested Schedule

Friday (PM)

- 5:00 Monthly Coordinator, Class/Group Coordinator, and Overnight Hosts (2) arrive to check on supplies and begin setup; beds, dining tables, serving tables, toiletries, underwear/socks table.
- 5:00 Driver arrives to pick up packet with keys, pick up the van from Leah Rose Senior Center and prepare the bus and van.
- 5:15 Food servers arrive and begin setting up for dinner.
- 5:20 Bus driver leaves in bus and van to pick up guests.
- 6:00 Food on serving tables, ready for dinner.
- 6:00 Guests arrive, deposit belongings on bed and wash hands to prepare for dinner.
- 6: "Welcome Speech" delivered.
- 6:15 Dinner is served.
- 7:00 Guests visit with volunteers, shower, watch television, and/or go to bed.
- 10:00 Lights out (lights are turned out earlier when most guests are in bed)

Saturday (AM)

- 5:15 Rise and shine
- 5:15 Breakfast served
- 5:45 Ask guests to carry their mattresses and put them away in the storage closet and place their bedframes close to the RITI closet doors.
- 6:00 Bus and van leave
- 6:30 Bus and van return

CONTACT INFO

Room In The Inn: 24/7 Emergency Number – 615-251-7064
Main Switchboard, 8 – 4 weekdays – 615-251-9791
Room In The Inn shelter direct line – 615-251-7019

Belmont UMC: Facility Manager for Emergencies - Neil Pennycuff, 615-804-8387.
Contact him if the RITI coordinators can't provide facility assistance.
For example, if the alarm goes off or if the heat doesn't work.

RITI Volunteer Coordinators and Contacts:

- Joan Cato, 615-498-9750
- Nelda Schreiber, 615-584-1391
- Grace Lee, 248-326-5228
- Susan Utley, 615-948-5772
- Heather Harris, 615-383-0832 x 227, Belmont UMC Sr. Assoc. Pastor
- Calvary United Methodist Church - ?

Class Volunteer Assignment Sheet

Volunteer Position	Name	Phone Number
Class/Group Coordinator		
Bus Driver – Friday pm		
Bus Driver – Sat. am		
Overnight Host		
Overnight Host		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Food Preparer/Server		
Personal Laundry Helper	Optional	
Personal Laundry Helper	Optional	
Linen Laundry Helper		
Linen Laundry Helper		

Room In The Inn Meal Signups

Friday Night Meal to serve 12 guests, 2 hosts, and food servers who eat

Main Dish: _____

Vegetable: _____

Vegetable: _____

Salad: _____

Bread: _____

Soft Fruit: _____

Dessert: _____

Ice Tea: _____

Saturday Breakfast (to serve 14)

Hot breakfast
sandwiches (optional): _____

Cereal: _____

Sweet rolls/pastries: _____

Soft Fruit: _____

1 Gallon orange juice: _____

1 Gallon milk: _____

Saturday Sack Lunches:

12 lunch sacks: _____

24 sandwiches (in baggies): _____

12 bags chips: _____

12 soft fruit: _____

24 soft cookies or brownies in individual baggies or 12 pudding cups
with plastic spoon: _____

24 individual juice/drink boxes: _____

Friday Custodian RITI Setup Instructions

1. Custodians will do the following prior to 4:30 pm on Friday:
 - Fold out and secure legs to the 14 bed frames.
 - Stack bed frames along the 21st avenue wall of the gym.
 - Ensure there are 4 round dining tables, 4 rectangular tables and about 34 folding chairs available in the gym for use by RITI.
 - Move bed frames and place them around the perimeter walls of the gym leaving about 6 to 8 feet between them.
 - Place a mattress on each bed frame.
 - Place a chair by each bed.
 - Set up 2 rectangular serving tables end to end about 10 feet from the wall where the kitchen and RITI closet are located
 - Set up 4 round dining tables with 6 chairs at each.
 - Set up 1 rectangular 6 foot table inside the gym near the entrance. This will be used for the under wear and sock distribution and for the towels, washcloths, and toiletries.
 - Set up an 2 rectangular 6 foot tables for personal laundry helpers next to the windows to the right side of the gym, close to the entrance.

Personal Laundry Helpers – Optional

The Personal Laundry Helpers wash the guests' clothes while they are staying with us. The guests are provided clothes to wear while their clothes are being washed. Duties of the Personal Laundry Helpers are as follows:

1. Arrive at the Community Center by 5:45 pm on Friday.
2. Set out the overnight clothes and mesh laundry bags on a table near the door to the gym. (They are located in the **RITI Laundry Supply Box** located in the RITI closet.)
3. After the "Welcome Speech" by the overnight host, give a set of top and pants and mesh laundry bag to each guest who wants their clothes washed.
4. Write the name of the guest on the signup sheet next to the number that matches the one on their mesh bag. (Use spiral notebook in the RITI Laundry Supply Box.)
5. Tell the guests to place their clothes to be washed in the mesh laundry bag and bring the filled bag back to the table.
6. Take the laundry bags to a Laundromat to wash and dry.
7. **The Monthly Coordinator will provide quarters for the Laundromat.**
8. Return to the Community Center and place each stack of folded clean clothes on the laundry table with the guest's name on an index card on top.
9. Return the mesh bags to the RITI Laundry Box and any remaining quarters to the RITI Cabinet.

Tips for Personal Laundry Helpers

Numbered mesh bags are used to ensure that guests' clothes do not get mixed together. Index cards are used to identify the folded clean clothes when they are returned. Typically, a laundry helper can wash three to four sets of guest's clothes.

The church supplies laundry soap, dryer sheets, and quarters for the Laundromat. There are also tops and bottoms for the guests to wear while their clothes are being washed. Numbered mesh bags, a spiral notebook, and index cards are located in the RITI Laundry Box. The Monthly Coordinator will provide the quarters.

Using several washers simultaneously for the guests' clothes works best and the clothes can be removed from the mesh bag for washing. Likewise, using several dryers simultaneously, guests' clothes can be dried in 20 minutes outside of the mesh bag. Using this method, a laundry helper can complete the entire process in about two hours, giving plenty of time to return the guests' clothes before 10 pm on Friday night.

Monthly Coordinator

The Monthly Coordinator provides oversight and assistance to the Class/Group Coordinators for an entire month of the program. The following are their duties:

1. Contact the Class/Group Coordinator two weeks in advance and confirm that each volunteer position has been filled.
2. Answer questions the Class/Group Coordinator may have about the program.
3. Check the supplies in the kitchen and replenish as appropriate. If extra cereal, milk, or juice is available from the previous weeks, inform the Class/Group Coordinator.
4. Drivers should email Angie Slade, aslade@belmontumc.org, and request a form so that they are approved to drive the bus. This may take a few days to receive approval. Angie should be given the name of the driver the Tuesday before they are to drive.
5. Obtain \$50 in quarters for the personal laundry and give those to the Personal Laundry Helpers when they arrive on Friday evening.
6. Be present Friday at 4:30 pm to assist with the set-up.
7. If needed, be present at 5:00 am on Saturday morning to assist with clean up.
8. Report any issues that need resolution to the Homeless Ministries Team RITI coordinator.