

Market Square Presbyterian, Harrisburg

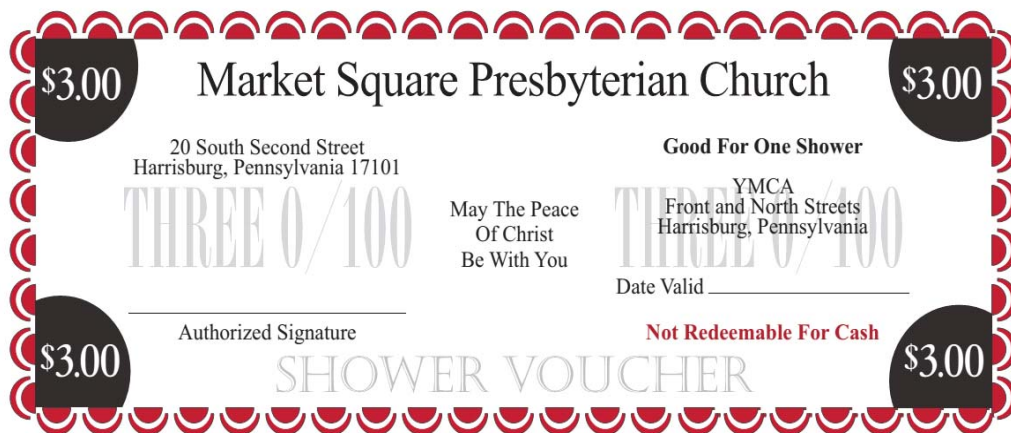
As a downtown church, Market Square literally serves as a “home” for a number of persons who live on our steps and in our alcoves and on our sidewalks. We minister to our homeless and other needy members of our community in a variety of ways.

We provide a hot meal every Sunday morning at our Community Breakfast. Our Board of Deacons pays for the food and teams of volunteers take turns staffing the breakfast. Current volunteers include the women of our Korean-speaking congregation, a local 12-step recovery group, and two suburban churches (Bible Baptist Church of Shiremanstown and the New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene) that want their youth groups to engage with homeless and marginalized citizens in ways that may not be readily accessible to their young people.

Market Square also works with Christian Churches United’s HELP Ministries to fund birth certificate and photo ID requests for clients working with a case manager.

We provide blankets and towels to anyone needing these items. Recently, a non-denominational church from Dauphin dropped off a number of blankets they had collected. They wanted to help the homeless population and they chose Market Square and Bethesda Mission as the recipients of their largesse. People come to our doors, winter and summer, asking for blankets.

In the past year, our primary ministry to the homeless is our shower voucher program. We give three shower vouchers worth \$9 every week to people in need. The vouchers can be redeemed at the nearby YMCA, which offers morning showers to non-members. Although demand has tripled in the past year, and our monthly shower bills run over \$600, we are very grateful for the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters fulfill this basic human need for cleanliness and dignity.



Scripture: "*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*"Romans 12:13 (NRSV)

Prayer: Loving Spirit, open our eyes that we might see the need around us; open our ears that we might hear the cries of the homeless, the hungry, the hated; open our hearts that we might be able to shower your love and light and healing on those around us. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Please pray for: the Reverends Thomas A. Sweet and Kelly L. Wiant (Pastors), Elder John Cameron (chair, Mission and Stewardship) Ellen Hunt (Interim Director of Music), Cheryl A. Goode (Interim Director of Children’s Education), Michelle Sheaffer (Financial Administrator), Nancy Sheets (Clerk of Session/Ministry Support Administrator), John Norman (Sexton)