

Serve on a Kairos team

Well-organized and well-trained volunteer teams of men and women from communities near a prison host a 3 ½ day retreat, which presents a short course in Christianity. Kairos works from a well-planned manual that has been revised several times over the years to provide the best experience possible to everyone involved.

This interdenominational team of volunteers, both clergy and lay persons, works in cooperation with the prison Chaplain, who carefully selects up to 42 inmates to attend. Kairos follows-up the weekend with a reunion one week later, Prayer and Share gatherings (Friday nights) and a 6-month reunion.

Training meetings for this April-May weekend begin in January and meet monthly. New volunteers are urged to attend at least 4 of the 5 meetings. These meetings educate volunteers as to what to expect behind the walls, help to build a functioning team, and develop friendships between good, caring, team members.

Meetings schedule for 2020

Training meetings are on Saturdays (schedule conflicts can occur and the meeting location may need to change, but we always keep interested volunteers well-informed). Meetings generally run from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM. Our 2020 schedule is as follows:

January 18, 2020 – Mount Hope United Methodist Church – Aston, PA

February 8, 2020 – St. Matthew's United Methodist Church – Wayne, PA

March 7, 2020 – Mount Hope United Methodist Church – Aston, PA

March 31, 2020 – Mount Hope United Methodist Church – Aston, PA

April 18, 2020 – St. Matthew's United Methodist Church – Wayne, PA

K-18 weekend - Thursday-Sunday, April 30 through May 3, 2020

Instructional Reunion Saturday, May 9, 2020 (unconfirmed)

6 Month Reunion Saturday, November 7, 2020 (unconfirmed)

Interested but unsure, yet? You can have your questions answered by Paul Oestreich (610-586-0172 or pauloest42@gmail.com).

Kairos Prison Ministry



WHO: Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is an ecumenical, Christian faith based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families.

WHAT: Now over 35 years old, Kairos serves in 37 states and 9 other countries with over 30,000 volunteers. Currently Kairos is present in over 470 prisons. It is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

WHERE: Our local chapter serves the State Correctional Institution in Chester for men (SCI Chester) located at 500 E. 4th Street, Chester, PA 19013.

WHEN: See the back of this brochure.

WHY: The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. Kairos volunteers make a difference.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Write a letter to inmates: You are invited to write a short hand-written note in pen. See instructions inside.

Pray for Inmates: Please sign up to pray for 30 or 60 minute blocks during the 3 ½ - day weekend. You would not believe the positive effects on the inmates and volunteers. See the prayer wheel example inside.

Serve on a Kairos team: A good job requires preparation. Experienced team members will guide all new volunteers step by step. Come to the first meeting in January to see if this works for you.

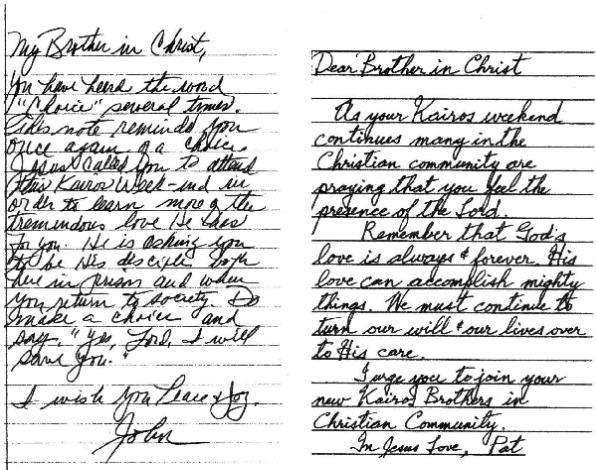
See details for these opportunities inside →

Write letters to inmates

Please keep the following considerations in mind while writing your letter:

- The note is designed to be a letter of hope, not correspondence.
- Use pen, dark enough to be scanned and e-mailed to the prison.
- We are looking for a SHORT note (5-12 sentences) on one side of one sheet of paper.
- Any kind of paper is fine, except no logos on the paper. The size paper does not matter.
- Begin your letter as: "Dear Brother in Christ" or "Dear friend."
- Recurring themes included: choices, friendship with God, study, action, prayer, grace, and love.
- Do NOT put your letter in an envelope. It must be reviewed by the prison.
- Children are welcome to write letters.
- Sign only with first name.
- Kairos is an ecumenical program, so please do not reference rosaries, communion, altar calls, speaking in tongues, or other religion specific activities. We focus on the love of Jesus.

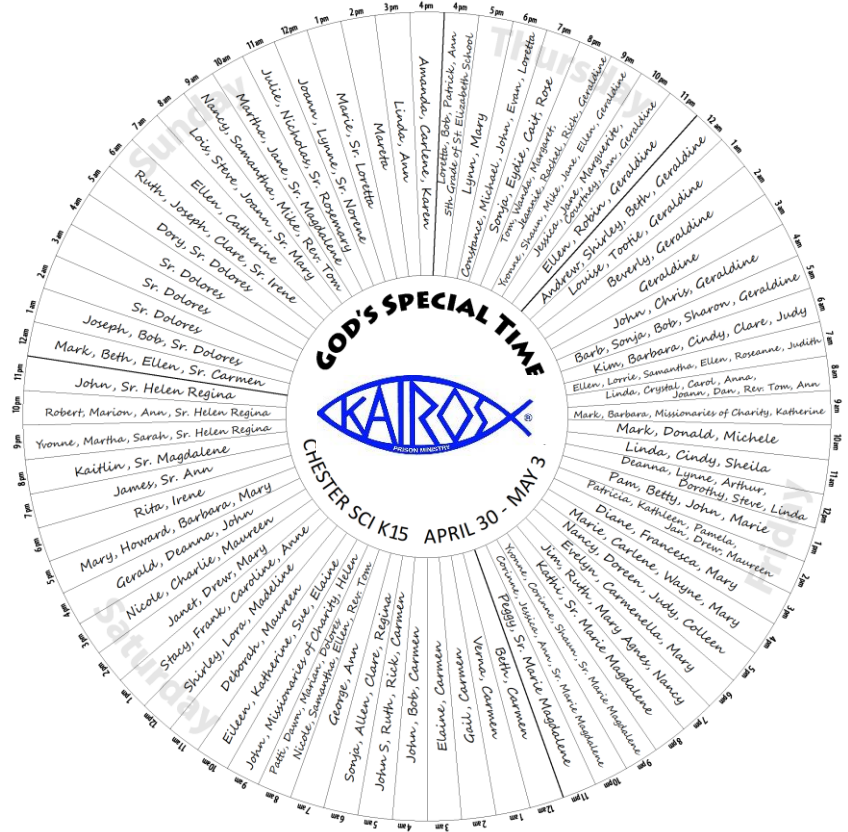
See samples below:



Letters may be dropped off at the church office any time up to April 1, 2020 to allow time for Paul to transport them to the prison and 30 days for correction officers to approve them prior to the weekend in early May.

Pray for inmates

Each instructional weekend includes a prayer wheel (see example below) that includes the first names of everyone who is praying for the inmate residents throughout the 3 ½ days. This 30" square graphic powerfully reminds residents that they are not forgotten. Times begin 4:00 PM on Thursday and end 5:00 PM on Sunday. Please pray for the residents, the superintendent, the chaplain, the Kairos leaders, and the team of volunteers. Your prayers will assure that the Holy Spirit will be present to guide everyone.



Prayer times can be left in the office, phoned to Paul, or e-mailed to Paul any time prior to Monday, April 26, 2020.