

You are invited to an informational meeting about the  
**Jail & Prison Ministry**  
 for Northeast Iowa

**Sunday, Sept. 19**  
 3 – 5 p.m.

**West Union United Methodist Church**  
 301 Hansen Blvd., West Union



**Learn how you can volunteer a few hours each month to help ex-offenders from Northeast Iowa rebuild their lives after release from prison.**

*Presented by Deacon Bill Hickson of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Sponsored by the Ministerial Group of West Union, the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Catholic Charities.*

Ex-offenders struggle with many issues as they return to the community, including housing, employment and childcare. The Jail & Prison Ministry helps provide a healthy and supportive relationship between the ex-offender and the community, and works in cooperation with probation, police, social services, treatment professionals, neighborhood groups, employers and housing officials.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP IN TWO WAYS:  
 Circles of Support & Accountability**

Meet once or twice a month as part of a small group to welcome the ex-offender to the community and offer support and guidance for living a responsible life.

**Mentoring Program**

Offer guidance and friendship in a one-to-one relationship with an ex-offender to promote constructive attitudes and law-abiding behavior.

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**To register for the Sept. 19 meeting, contact Pastor Harold Peterson, St. Peter & St. John Lutheran, Waucoma, [paspete65@hotmail.com](mailto:paspete65@hotmail.com) or 563-429-2701.**

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**Jail & Prison Ministry**

Utilizing the principles of restorative justice, the Jail and Prison ministry coordinates volunteer-based outreach ministry to imprisoned and recently released individuals through institutional visitation, followed by mentoring and circles of support and accountability with the goal of successfully re-entering society.

**Restorative Justice — An Alternative Vision**

<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>Restorative Justice</b>
Crime violates the state (government) and its laws	Crime violates people and relationships
Justice aims to establish guilt so punishment can be meted out	Justice identifies needs and obligations so they can be met
Focus on past behavior: Who did what?	Focus on present and future: What should be done? Who should do it?
Accountability means Punishment	Accountability means understanding impact and repairing harm
Additional social injuries added to the original	Social injuries repaired
Adversarial process; conflict between “winner” and “loser”	Cooperative process; encourages dialogue, mutual agreement
Action only by state (government)	Active roles for all parties: Victim, offender, community member
Action directed at offender—victim largely ignored, offender passive	Victim’s issues addressed; offender takes responsibility
Community sidelined, represented by state	Community involved, facilitates repair
Rules and intent outweigh Outcomes	Outcomes central: Offender is responsible for own behavior, repairs harm
Debt to society	Debt to victim and Community
Stigma of crime permanent (irremovable)	Stigma of crime Removable
Little if any encouragement; little if any opportunity for amends	Possibility of making amends and expressing remorse

Learn more about the Jail & Prison Ministry at <http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/CathCharities/Jailprison.html>