



Safe Parking is a program for women and families living in their cars. We recognize that people who are homeless and have a vehicle face challenges in where to park their car without fear of tickets or harassment.

We recognize that homelessness can be isolating and the benefits of community and relationships can be life-transforming. We at Lake Washington United Methodist Church offer our parking lot to guests as a safe place to park, sleep in their cars, and become part of our church community. After a short intake process and background check, guests are invited to stay in the parking lot.

LWUMC is a community for sharing resources, providing emotional support, and being a spiritual sanctuary in a scary, unpredictable situation.

Safe Parking Building Access Hours:

- ◆ 9:00 PM—3:00PM & 7:00 PM—9:00PM Monday through Friday
- ◆ 9:00 AM—11:00 AM & 7:00 PM—9:00 PM Saturdays.
- ◆ 8:00AM—9:30AM & 7:00 PM—9:00 PM Sundays.



Outside Amenities:

- ◆ Up to 60 Parking Spaces
- ◆ Three Port-a-potties
- ◆ Outside Dog Run provided by Fences for Fido
- ◆ Smoking area
- ◆ Vegetable garden
- ◆ Wi-fi



Inside Amenities:

- ◆ Kitchen use during morning and evening hours
- ◆ WiFi
- ◆ Library
- ◆ Laptop computer check-out
- ◆ Mail service
- ◆ Phone
- ◆ Gas cards for guests
- ◆ Car repair fund for guests
- ◆ On-site case worker provided by Sophia Way

LWUMC's Safe Parking Program Guest Stats for 2021

- ◆ Met with 109 households
- ◆ Served 158 people
- ◆ Assisted 28 households into housing
- ◆ Assisted 55 households into shelter



Volunteer stats for 2021



- ◆ 9 weekly hosts
- ◆ 248 donors
- ◆ 313 days volunteers served meals
- ◆ 665 logged donations



Move-in Ministry 2021

Safe Parking participates in a Move in Ministry in conjunction with Sophia Way, Holy Family, New Bethlehem, and St. Vincent DePaul to furnish apartments for the newly housed. In 2021 this ministry provided support for 75 households.





Volunteer hosts come every morning to unlock the church for children going to school, and every evening so guests have access to the indoor bathrooms (there is a portable toilet in the parking lot), kitchen, and phone. We partnered with Fences for Fido to install a dog run for our guests. Through a grant, we provide free Wi-Fi. We have information on community resources available, including where to shower and do laundry.

Guests are welcome to join church activities, but are under no obligation to do so. Many guests have participated in small groups, gone on retreats, and volunteered their services to the church in a variety of ways. Through our Wednesday night Community Dinner and our volunteer hosts, many wonderful relationships have been formed between housed and homeless members of our church community.

For more information, please contact:
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Safe Parking Program

Lake Washington United Methodist Church

Our mission is to practice radical hospitality by providing a safe place for women and families to park while living in their cars.

The program welcomes women and parents with children under age 18 living in a car (RVs, campers or trailers are not allowed).

The parking lot is available 24-7 as this creates a consistent space for guests to get enough sleep and organize the day to be most effective and allows children to go to school and come back to the same space.