

## **Laundry Love 2020**

Laundry Love has managed to continue its mission even through the pandemic. Held on the third Tuesday evening of each month at Classic Coin Laundry on Balson Avenue, the volunteers have found a way to social distance while meeting the needs of our University City community, without the pizza and children's games.

Our primary obstacle was not being inside the laundromat for distancing reasons and because the business limited the number of people inside. Therefore, we've set up a table in the parking lot at a space near the entrance.

Pandemic or no pandemic, we have averaged 16 customers each month in a two-hour period.

We've ordered individual packets of laundry soap and dryer sheets that we put in Ziplock bags, and we placed \$12 of quarters in Ziplocks also. So that no one would miss our presence, we purchased a free-standing banner with the Laundry Love symbol on it. To protect us from the rain in the autumn we had a free-standing canopy to protect the volunteers and our supplies. Beginning in December, the church has purchased a butane patio heater to use while we're stuck in the parking lot.

To maintain social distancing among volunteers, we have only two or three at a time serving one of two shifts during the evening. No matter the weather, they still mask up and cheerfully greet the customers, hand out packets of soap, dryer sheets, and quarters, and ask about their day. I think all of the volunteers will agree that they miss the chance to be inside the building spending the evening talking with and coming to know our Holy Communion neighbors.

Because of Covid, we have had to delay our plans to partner with other local religious groups for a second Tuesday each month.

We are grateful for the continued support of the vestry and congregation as we seek to share the love of God in tangible ways. And we are even more grateful for the volunteers who don't let a pandemic keep them away.

Submitted by your Laundry Love Coordinators:  
Mary Duba, Julie Farrar, and Lisa Heaner