

UUCL Service Auction FAQ

What is the Service Auction?

- Technically it's the biggest fundraiser of the year for UUCL. In reality it's much, much more than that! It's a silent auction where members and friends donate 'items' such as dinners, events, unique items, etc. We then gather together on auction night for our biggest dinner party of the year to bid on the items and enjoy fellowship and frivolity. It's the one and only time a year when all the adults of the congregation are together to enjoy each other's company, raise money for the church, and bid on and hopefully win some fantastic dinners and events that keep us spending time together over the coming year.

What happens on Auction night?

- When you arrive, you'll check in and receive a bidder number. This is the number you'll use to bid on the auction items. Items are arranged on about 5 different 'tables' that close at different times throughout the evening, so you'll want to be there when the auction starts to make sure that you have the opportunity to bid on everything you want! You'll also want to keep an eye on items you're after to make sure you aren't being outbid, and raise your bid accordingly. Complete instructions on how to bid are on the back of your bidder card. We'll also have a DJ playing music and keeping us on track, we'll enjoy fellowship and dinner together. At the end of the night everything is tallied up and you get to find out what you won!

Who comes to the auction?

- Primarily members and friends of UUCL. Due to restrictions with our alcohol license, insurance, and contract with the venue, this is a private event and cannot be opened to the general public. Also, given that many of the events (dinners, game nights, parties, etc.) are held in members and friends homes it would be awkward if just anyone could purchase a seat at the table. The whole idea is not only to raise money for the church, but to give us even more opportunities to be together while we do so! That's not to say your relative or friend visiting from out of town, or someone you've been encouraging to come to church isn't invited, by all means bring them along!

What kinds of items should I donate?

- By far the most lucrative items are those that have us spend time together! Dinners (themed or just because), and events (such as hiking, boating, wine tasting, etc.) are the things that people get the most excited about and start a bidding war over. Unique 'things' are also popular and can get people bidding!

How many items should I donate?

- A successful auction takes about 80 or so items. We ask that each family consider donating 2 items to help us reach this goal.

Can I just donate my used 'stuff'?

- While we definitely appreciate everything, the short answer is honestly we'd rather not! An auction just isn't a great format for selling general 'stuff.' BUT, if you have lots of stuff you'd like to get rid of while raising money for the church, you can check with the Stewardship Committee about the church yard sale!

It's my first auction, what should I do?

- First of all, just plan to be there and enjoy the evening. We'd also love for you to donate something, so maybe consider just a dinner at your home, and plan to bid on a couple dinners or events. Hosting and attending dinners is a great way to get to know people! And as an added bonus, if it's your first ever auction, see a member of the auction team for a special welcome gift!

Why should I bid on things at the auction?

- Well, you gotta eat right? You were going to go hiking or get a massage anyway weren't you? Instead of spending the money at some restaurant or finding a hiking guide or masseuse on your own, spend money you were going to spend anyway and help the church at the same time! And it's virtually guaranteed that the dinner or event you buy at the auction will be far better than what you'd get outside, because you'll be with your church family! You get a night out AND time with your friends, what could be better than that?!?!?

Do my auction purchases count towards my annual pledge? What about tax deductibility?

- Purchases made at the auction are separate from annual pledge and will not appear on your annual statement of donations from the church. However, while we cannot give tax advice, it is our understanding that any money paid above the 'actual value' of what you purchase could be tax deductible, but again, that's between you, your tax people, and the IRS.

How can I help?

- Glad you asked! The most important step is planning to be there! Aside from that you can submit a few donations, come an hour early to help set up, and plan to stay after to help take everything down.

Is this a kid friendly event?

- Due to the requirements of our alcohol license, this is an adult's only event. But that's ok! Almost every other event the church hosts is kid friendly, and the adults deserve one night together right???