
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)

To: fccv@snet.net;

Date: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:25 PM

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God." Philippians 1:3

Friends in Christ,

I was counting my blessings this morning and there you were again, all of you, filling my heart to overflowing! I give thanks to God for each of you, for our church, and for all the ways you allow the Holy Spirit to move through you. The kingdom of heaven is at hand every day here in Vernon, CT.

This Sunday will be a sweet reflection of the abundant blessings God has been pouring out upon us. During worship, we will rejoice in the baptisms of a young father and his son, **Jonathan and Noah Piela**, we will commission one of our Deacons, **Susan Pilkons**, as a missionary to Guatemala, and we will be moved to thanksgiving by the tender voices of our **Transformers** children's choir. After church, we will celebrate the recent Ordination of our new Associate Pastor, the **Reverend Robin Bird**.

This Sunday is also an opportunity to BE a blessing! It is the last day to sign up to bring food items (or make donations) to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for families in need. If you can contribute food or funds to provide a Thanksgiving meal for someone who otherwise may not have enough to eat, please stop by the Missions table during coffee hour. If you or someone you know needs to receive a Thanksgiving Basket this year, please let one of our pastors know.

As we count our blessings, please keep the people of the Philippines in your prayers as they struggle to recover from the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan. International aid workers from the UCC and Church World Services are on the ground there assisting in the recovery efforts. If you would like to contribute to the relief, you may do so by mailing your contribution to the church office, or by using the special envelope marked "Emergency Relief" included in Sunday's bulletin.

May you be blessed as you seek to be a blessing today!

With you on the journey,

Meg

ADOPT a FAMILY for THANKSGIVING

The Board of Missions and Outreach is again sponsoring our annual "Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving" program. **On Monday, November 18 between 6:30 and 9 AM in the FCCV parking lot** we will be collecting Thanksgiving baskets for families in need in the Vernon area. Those who wish to participate may sign up during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall. We will also be collecting all types of non-perishable food items to drop off at Hockanum Valley tomorrow. If you would like to help us tomorrow or have questions, please contact Sandra O'Gara at 860-872-6649 or Deb Cutting or 860-875-2291.

Family of 3 or 4 people

Large turkey
 Large box of instant potatoes or 5 pounds of fresh potatoes
 Large box or bag of stuffing
 2 cans of gravy
 2 cans of yams or sweet potatoes (or one large can)
 1 can of cranberry sauce
 2 cans of fruit



2 cans of vegetables

Brownie or cookie mix or cake mix and frosting

1 package of dinner rolls

Breakfast bread or muffin mix

Disposable roasting pan

Family of 1 or 2 People

Small turkey, turkey breast or chicken

Small box of instant potatoes or 2-3 pounds of fresh potatoes

Small box or bag of stuffing

1 can of gravy

1 can of yams or sweet potatoes

1 can of cranberry sauce

1 can of fruit

1 can of vegetables

1 package of dinner rolls

Brownie or cookie mix

Breakfast bread or muffin mix

1 bottle of apple or cranberry juice

Disposable roasting pan

Hockanum Valley is also looking for volunteers for the holiday season. Please contact Victoria at 860-872-7727, ext 2916 for more information.

Easv Holiday Appetizers: Tuesday, November 19, 6 PM in Fellowship Hall

Looking for some new appetizers for the coming holidays? Join us for some already prepared and others we will make and serve. Bring a relative, friend or co-worker. Please RSVP to Jayne Gunther, 860-402-5399 or Jayne.gunther@snet.net to ensure we have enough for everyone.