

Advent Wishes



For centuries, the early church set aside the season of Advent as a time of preparation for people of faith to celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time of meaning and mystery, an opportunity to deepen our journey and thus be further enriched by God's word made flesh. Many of who read this email are the very ones who are actively involved in bringing Christmas into your church and into worship. May the message of advent seep into your hearts and fill your soul as you labor in God's vineyard.

Lessons Learned from Mission: 1

We asked individuals what they have learned from the hunger ministries they were engaged in.

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle. -Philo of Alexandria

"In my younger days, my first real job was working at a furlough house for women coming out of prison. I learned, then, never to judge another. To be open-minded and fair to everyone." -Diane Frederick

At the point where hope would otherwise become hopelessness, it becomes faith. Robert Brault

"The faith of people who are living on the edge – day to day – is stronger than most of us who don't have to be concerned about where the next meal or bed is coming from." -Pat C. Whiting

When you carry out acts of kindness . . . it is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel. - Rabbi Harold Kushner

"Our local food bank was getting empty so we raised awareness in the paper, at city council, at the Chamber of Commerce, through posters, and word of mouth. The response was amazing!" –Jeannette Solimine

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. -Mother Teresa

"When we serve at Volunteer Ministries, I always like to pour the drinks and hand them out. It lets me be face-to-face with everyone, look them in the eyes. It has been the best experience for me because it isn't just food and the giving/receiving is going in both directions." -Tonya Barnette

I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9.23)

"We take so much for granted. A woman with two teenage boys taught me that when I pushed a cart with two weeks of emergency groceries to her car the week before Thanksgiving. To me, it was only groceries. To her, it was as if God's blessings had been poured out upon her and was more than she could ever have imagined...She hugged me and I cried - Jim Brehler

Christian Education News

National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education



The National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education in the United Church of Christ is being conducted from October 1 to December 16 in order to gather information from UCC members that will assist us in shaping the future of faith formation for our church. We want to know what matters to you and why!

[Take the survey here!](#)

Conference Christian Educator Position

Rev. Elizabeth Barnum and Chuck Barnes are working together to create a part-time position description to help in networking and resourcing our Christian educators and congregations. They will be sharing their work with The Christian Educator Group for feedback and comments and then presenting it to the Personnel Committee meeting of the Board of Directors for their consideration. If there are things that are important to you to be included in the position please let either one of us know.

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RPM Voices Presents –

Advent of Unity Concert 2011 Joy to the World A Holiday Celebration. Friday, December 2, 2011 6:50 PM at the Beneficent Congregation Church, 300 Weybosset Street, Providence, RI Tickets: \$10.00 -Available at the door and on line. www.RPMVOICES.com .

Making Pathways To Peace In Silence, Word and Song: -

An Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to 1 pm, St. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence, RI. The Rev. Dr. Anita Schell-Lambert, leader. Is there anything more important in our world today than working towards peace? As nations and peoples we are often painfully divided, even though we share a spiritual descent. Divisions between Jews, Christians and Muslims are at the heart of much of the world's most serious conflicts and war still today. This Advent retreat will focus on how we as people of faith can make pathways to peace. The first and second addresses will focus on Hebrew prophets' and Jesus' teachings on peace making. The final address will explore how we promote a culture of peace, looking to the principles of the international document and initiative, The Earth Charter, as our guide. All 3 addresses will include examples of twenty and twenty first century peacemakers. A contemporary chant from the recent collaboration of Celtic writer John Philip Newell, Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev and Sufi Muslim Rahmah Luz, "Chanting for Peace" concludes each of the 3 addresses. You are invited to join us as we pray and work for peace this Advent Quiet Day, and every day.