



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3 1/2 East Main Street, Canton, New York 13617-1417

December 4, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton,

Decades ago, our church helped establish the [Church and Community Program](#) (C&CP) in Canton. Since then, people of all faiths have regularly come together to help those in the most need. They serve a diversity of people, ranging from newborn to seniors; some are working, some can't find a job, some are disabled, some are single, some are parents (or grandparents) with young children.

One young family moved to the Canton area this summer and found only low-income work. The wife, husband, and baby didn't have much and came to the C&CP a few times for food. This past Thanksgiving week the young woman's work hours were cut and her husband lost his job entirely, so suddenly they were in greater need. The young mother was clearly scared and sad. A volunteer took her around the food pantry to get her frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, non-perishables, breads, cereal, and treats, which took a little time. Because C&CP gets extra donations of turkeys and fixings during Thanksgiving, a volunteer went above and beyond the usual food and gave the family an entire turkey and box of fixings. They added it to her cart while she was getting her other food and simply said, "Happy Thanksgiving." The woman nearly cried and kept trying to turn down the food, saying, "I want to leave it for someone else who really needs it."

The C&CP serves 200 families that have nowhere else to go for basic necessities in life. They depend on volunteers and financial support of member congregations like ours. We have a long-standing tradition of giving to this very worthy cause in December.

As much as Christmastime is about celebrating, it is also a time to spread the light of peace and goodwill to others. It will be a very active holiday season at our church, with lots of ways to celebrate and reflect on the light and dark of the season. This year's holiday pageant, *The World at Midwinter*, will be at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. We will also have a special family-friendly Winter Solstice celebration at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, which will conclude with a simple meal of soup and hearty bread. Sunday, December 24 we will have two services: a morning service at 10:30 a.m. and our Christmas Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. These services provide a time to worship, reflect, and give back to our local communities. The offerings received on December 17 and 24 will benefit the Church & Community Program.

If you're unable to be here in person with us this holiday season, we will be grateful if you send an offering by mail or [donate online](#) indicating 'Holiday Appeal' as a memo. These contributions help assure that the needs of our Canton neighbors for food, clothing and shelter will be met during the long winter months.

Blessed Be,

The Rev. James Galasinski