



thankful



THE BEACON
NOVEMBER 2018



A note from Rev. Deb...

"Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

November is here already! Oh my goodness, where has the time gone? My dad always told me that time seemed to go faster and faster the older he got, and I guess I can understand what he has been saying. So, four months have flown by since I began serving First UMC as your pastor. It seems like only yesterday, and I still have so much to learn about your traditions, personalities, and most of all, mission and ministry.

Since Thanksgiving arrives along with the month of November, I would like to share my thoughts of thanks after these four months. I'm thankful that God nudged me to ask Jim McPhee to consider an appointment and that it ended up being here at First UMC.

Your welcome and support of me, as well as Dave, have meant a lot. I give thanks for the children in our midst and for the hope and joy they bring to us as a congregation, and I'm thankful for the teachers and helpers who are there to teach, encourage, and help them to know Christ better. I'm thankful for those who are voices that call us to accountability, for those who make suggestions and those who are willing to compromise or try something new. I'm thankful for the music, our worshipping God together, and for the faith I see in all of you who inspire me. I'm so blessed to have a husband who has without hesitation supported me in wherever God has called us to be, and for his participation in sermons, with the children, and for his huge, generous, caring heart that makes such a difference in so many people's lives, many who never know who it was who did the acts of kindness.

Most of all, I am so grateful for our God who loves me - and all of us - with unconditional love, who accepts me with all my faults and failures, and who has given me gifts that I can share and a congregation I can love and care for as the spiritual leader of the church. Without God in my life, I am lost. So, on Sunday morning, or any time even during the day, I am privileged to enter God's gates with thanksgiving and know that I (we all) have been given the gift of God's love to share with each other and others.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you will take time to count your blessings, give thanks to God, and bless God's name. Shalom!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Deb

just thought
YOU should
KNOW...

1 **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**

Is an agency that reaches out to communities and countries who have gone through natural disasters, fires, and many other traumatizing events that have caused destruction and loss. They provide clean-up support, medical supplies, school supplies, and a number of other ways of helping those who are in distress.

Even though we may not always see them listed in the newspapers, they are among the first ones to respond since teams are made up of people who live in the area. We have had training in our annual conference for volunteers who are prepared to show up to help immediately. For example, with the fires in Lawrence, MA recently, a team was already there helping with food, spiritual and physical support, and a variety of other helping ways.

Here at First UMC, we support UMCOR through our financial giving, as well as occasionally putting together kits or flood buckets to send wherever they are needed. All money we give goes to help wherever it is needed. On the Sunday designated as "One Great Hour of Sharing," the money for that Sunday goes to help the administrative costs to run UMCOR. So, when we donate to a cause, we can be sure that 100% of the funds go to that cause. Each month we will collect mission money for UMCOR to go to a certain cause. Most recently, the collection has been for the continuing clean-up in Puerto Rico as well as the fires in Lawrence. For more information, go to GBGM.org. Thanks for all you do to help others!

2

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Sunday, November 18th, our church will host the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 2:00 pm. This is an opportunity to give thanks with brothers and sisters from many faith groups, and it will be led by the clergy from the greater Portsmouth ministerium, of which Rev. Deb is a member.

A time for fellowship and conversation will be held in Sanborn Hall following the service, and we are looking for folks who are willing to provide "goodies" and help set up, serve, and clean up. We may be hosting around 100 people, so this is a great opportunity to meet and greet others from our community. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary.

3

CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Monday, November 19, we will have our annual meeting, called a "Church Conference." Rev. Jim McPhee will preside. A pot luck supper will begin at 5:45 pm with the Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting with Jim from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Bring food to share. The Church Conference will begin at 7:00 pm. This is an important meeting in the life of our church where we hear annual reports on the state of the church, set the pastor's salary, and worship together as we celebrate who we are the ministry we share together. Please come and join us!

4

REV. DEB'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday mornings from about 9-12. It is a good idea to call first to be sure she is available.

5

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK

November 4th is when daylight savings time ends so be sure to "fall" back on all the clocks in the house.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

TURKEY SUPPER
November 3rd
5 p.m.



\$10 adults \$5 kids
Come hungry, leave
thankful.

KEN'S 90TH
November 4th
10 a.m.



Everyone is invited
to share in the
celebration!

BELL BAZAAR
November 17th
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Crafts, Baked
Goods, Silent
Auction and Lunch



November Celebrations

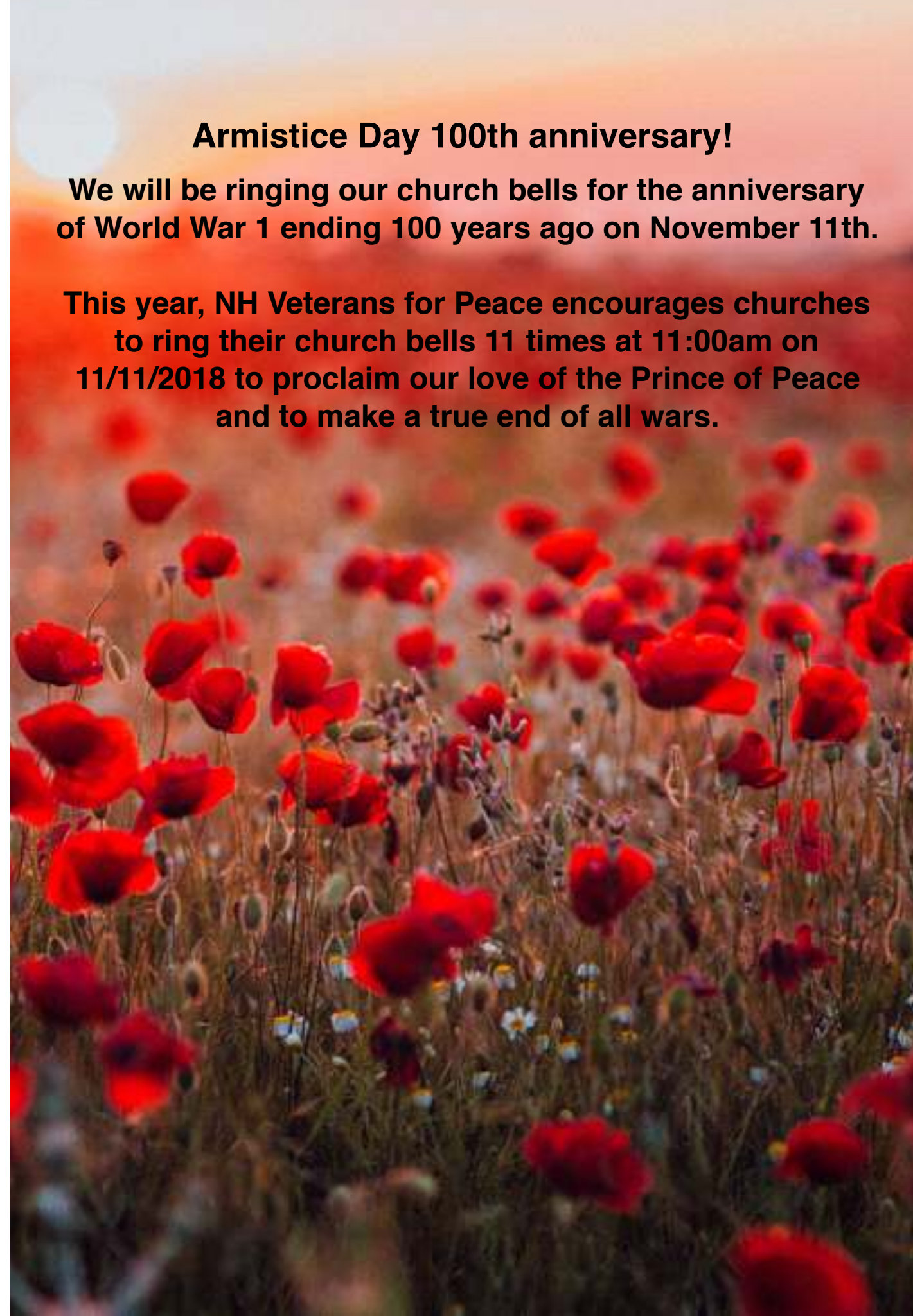
4 Ken Westbrook
6 Scot Newbury
6 Rose Arsenault
12 Marion Collishaw
12 Mike Coffey
16 Evelyn Laux
17 Debbie Woods
19 Shawn Buswell
20 Sylvia Bartlett
21 Fred Pettigrew
23 Pamela Smith
30 Elmer Sewell

20 Scot & Darlene
Newbury

Armistice Day 100th anniversary!

We will be ringing our church bells for the anniversary of World War 1 ending 100 years ago on November 11th.

This year, NH Veterans for Peace encourages churches to ring their church bells 11 times at 11:00am on 11/11/2018 to proclaim our love of the Prince of Peace and to make a true end of all wars.





FUMC FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Pauline Boynton Victoria Fernandez

Bob Clark Cole Sharon Garceau

Irene Derosier Ginger Ellenwood Seraphim Afflick

Barbara Clement Trudy Parkhurst Joette MacKenzie

Malia Broe Rev. Sue Ellery Rev. Bill Gardei

Gerry Royer Barbara Millar Cynthia Drake

Barbara Glidden Marion Collishaw Sue Goodhue

Kim Hishop Hunter Pinkley

Sylvia Bartlett Brian Thompson

Our church family

Those in rehab and care facilities

**Sending a card is also a great way to let
someone know you are thinking of them.**



COMMUNITY OUTreach GROUP UPDATES

NURTURE GROUP

Our church supports our college students with a gift card to help them with extra expenses. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost please speak with Barbara Slater or PaulaJ.

WOMEN'S PEACE CIRCLE

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 9:30 AM at the home of Barbara Millar. The gathering centers on a short business meeting, shared devotions, a book reading, good company and refreshments of course! All are welcome! Tuesday, November 13th is the next meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our Church Conference is on November 19. We will be seeking volunteers for the following positions. More positions may become available - Financial Secretary, Sound Technician, Videographer, SPRC - 3 members, Trustees - 2 members, Committee on Lay Leadership & Nomination - 4 members, Christian Education Helpers - 3 members. Please prayerfully consider your calling for one of these opportunities to serve. Please see Rev. Deb or Sue S. for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During November, the kids will be learning about giving thanks to God for their blessings. They will hear the story of the feeding of the five thousand, visit with Veggie Tales "Madam Blueberry," and present a Thanksgiving poem. On the last Sunday of November, they will begin the journey toward Bethlehem with the story of Jesus' birth. Then, in December they will be practicing their pageant!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

On Sunday, November 11 at 1:00 pm, a New Widow/Widower group will begin meeting at Temple Israel, 315 Court Street vestibule entrance. This is open to all, and it is for those who have lost their partners within the past five years. The purpose is to meet and socialize and develop friendships, as well as build support. Please RSVP to the group leader Elissa Kaplan Senter at ekapsent@aol.com or text her at 516-450-5171 as soon as possible to let her know you are interested in attending.



COMMUNITY OUTreach GROUP UPDATES

FUMC A RECONCILING CONGEGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors" We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.

BACKPACK MINISTRY/END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

This program continues to thrive and our 6th school year is now on the backstretch and we are already starting to think about next school year and what we can do to make the program even more successful and give it even more outreach into the community. My co-coordinator has been meeting with school officials to determine what could be improved or changed in order to get more children/parents to take advantage of the program and they came up with some good ideas we are going to implement for next school year.

We are currently serving 67 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools. We continue to get amazing support from other churches and our community volunteers. I get emails from folks regularly asking how they can get involved and volunteer. God is good!

If you would like to get involved in this ministry or learn more about it, please contact me directly at jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

Blessings,

Jen Berry, Backpack Ministry Coordinator

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE

SFP is going stronger than ever. We currently have (4) families in the program – 3 of which are new from our last rotation, which means families once again have transitioned successfully from this program into stable housing. If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities available to help with prepping the Sunday school rooms for family arrival, cleaning them up when it's over the next week, dinner crew for Friday night and we could always use new overnight volunteers. Many of the current volunteers in this program have been doing it all 12 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. This program definitely changes lives forever and I am proud that our church is a part of it, along with 20+ other congregations in the Seacoast NH area. If you think you might like to help and experience the joy of changing people's lives, please contact

Jen Berry, Coordinator - jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.



BULLETIN BOARD POSTING

All the current Church Council, Finance and Trustee meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in Sanborn Hall.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

If anyone would like 3rd quarter financial statements, please let the office know or see Nancy Chesser.

VISIONING GROUP

Met in follow-up to earlier discussions on the future directions of FUMC now that Rev. Deb is on board. We discussed several approaches toward enhancing engagement of congregational members. A number of changes will be made to the

Facebook page as well as creating other connections on social media. We are going to consider the development of a “Community Forums” series on topical issues of concern to the greater Portsmouth community as well as a concert/dinner theater series at the church; and, a “concerts for kids” series. Assignments were made and the group intends to meet on a quarterly basis to continue our discussions and plans for further develop of support programs for the congregation. If you have questions – reach out to either Rev. Deb or Kevin Fickenscher

FINANCE COMMITTEE - STATE-OF-THE-CHURCH

Committee Members:

Susan Sarosiek – Lay Leader
Mike Coffey – SPRC Chairperson
David Richards – Trustees Chairperson
Sue Richards – Mission & Outreach Chairperson
Nancy Chesser – Financial Secretary
Linda Reiber – Treasurer
Yvonne Griffin – Member at Large
Reverend Deb Hanson
John VanReenen – Finance Chairperson

Finance Committee Goals:

- Open communication; financial transparency with congregation
- Efficient resolution of challenges
 - o Mission share payments
 - o Prior debt payments
- Continuously improved operations
 - o Office computer & software upgrades
 - o Improvements in Church banking
- Positive response to mid-2018 all-church survey
- Congregation questions welcome – See Nancy, Linda or John

2018 Budget - \$172,752

2018 Church Income to date - \$122,405

2017 Budget - \$169,264

2017 Church Income - \$166,636

Capital Campaign – 2016

- Total Campaign Pledge - \$156,766
- Funds Received to Date - \$150,496
- Projects Completed to Date via Capital Campaign
 - o Kitchen Rebuild & Upgrade, Alarm System Installation, Roof Repairs; Sanctuary & Sanborn Hall, Sanborn Hall Roof Replacement via Line of Credit



Gratitude Campaign – May, 2018

- Pledges to Date - \$95,904 (34)
- Pledges Received YTD - \$61,924
- 2017 Pledge Total - \$90,551 (32)
- 2017 Pledge Contributions - \$77,773

Mission Shares Payment

- 2018 Obligation - \$18,655
- 2018 Payments to Date - \$2,000
- 2015, 2016 & 2017 Paid in Full

Trustees; Recent Capital Projects

- Sanctuary Roof Repairs
- Sanborn Roof Replacement
- Church Tower Stonework Repairs
- Randall Room Upgrade

Invested Funds

- Total - \$117,098
- Available for capital improvements - \$61,197

Recent Financial Successes

- Payoff of (2) Loans of \$35,000 & \$40,000 during 2017
- Payment of Mission Shares 2015, 2016 & 2017
- Payment on Line of Credit of \$7,000; Current balance \$29,000
- Copier costs cut in half with new copier agreement - 2018

Concerns & Actions

- Church attendance and resulting financial contributions
- Aging congregation combined with natural attrition; impact on pledges
- Fundraising in 2nd half of year resulting in first half bill-paying challenges
- Several imminent Trustees projects including boiler replacement
- Congregational concern for financial transparency and additional financial information
- Note: In response to the all-church survey the Finance Committee has implemented the following actions:
 - o Monthly committee meeting minutes posted on Sanborn Hall bulletin board
 - o Monthly financial reports available for review & copy in church office
 - o Quarterly state-of-the-church report published in Beacon

“Shift” book (by Phil Maynard) review by Finance Committee in-process

- Book byline reads: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry
- The committee is taking turns in review of the five Shifts (chapters) covered in the book
- John led the discussion on Shift 1; From Fellowship to Hospitality, which contained much useful information on how we open our church up to visitors and potential new members from the community
- David will be leading Shift 2; From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle
- Anyone wishing to join these discussions is welcome to attend the next Finance Committee meeting on October 1 at the parsonage at 6pm. Additional copies of the book are also available in the office.

Respectfully submitted, John VanReenen, Finance Chairperson

Thank You!

Our customers' loyalty and generosity continues to be amazing!!! Once they know we take credit/debit cards, they often come back with wagons full of gorgeous pumpkins and gourds. Their reasons for returning are our people, tradition, learning/knowing our "story" and that rotten/leftover pumpkins feed local farm animals! They want to support worthy causes, often saying this is the only place they buy their pumpkins. Our Patch is a destination and an opportunity for service. This year our Pumpkin Unloading Parties have included some church folks, lots of Planet Rangers and their parents, Portsmouth High School Peer Leadership Group, customers, passersby, and a neighbor. It is also 5 weeks of squeezing things into crammed schedules: Pumpkin Unloading Parties, baking pies at church, at-home baking, working Booth shifts in all kinds of weather, tarping and untarpping, taking "rottens" to the trailer, arranging for farmers to pick up "rottens", counting daily sales, and making bank deposits. From the bottom of a very grateful heart, I thank each of you who helped in any way, including giving me moral support!

I encourage you to write short "Patch Stories" for future Beacons. Here is an example: One day a mom and toddler daughter spent over an hour in the Patch. Then the little girl had a meltdown, the Booth got busy, and I lost track of them. A while later a man was talking on his cell phone. It turns out that he was the husband/dad looking for them. The mom and daughter came back, and they spent more time hanging out in the Patch.

Love and Hugs, 😊 Sue Richards, Coordinator







CAN YOU HELP?

I hope everyone who is able has been working on their contribution to this year's Bell Bazaar. This is a very busy time of year with the Pumpkin Patch wrapping up, the Turkey Dinner approaching and just life in general.

As always, many hands working together makes things go smoothly. So please keep the date of the Bell Bazaar available to work in any way possible. Volunteers needed start on Sunday, November 11 with setting up the big wooden tables and moving as much of the big items out of Sanborn Hall as possible. Hopefully we can have some "muscle" to make lighter work.

PLEASE plan to help by baking sweets, fudge, candies, breads – fancy or not fancy. PLEASE plan to help by making freezer foods – these are quite popular. For consistency of pricing we use an 8x8 aluminum pan. Instructions and pans will be provided in the near future.

Thank you all in advance,
Dianne Crisp

Volunteers will be needed for:

Three kitchen crews

Breakfast, Lunch, Cleanup
Donating food items for the menu

Baked Table

Breads, Cookies, Candies, Fudge,
Anything fancy or plain
Allergy specific instructions
Working at the table

Frozen Foods

Can be any food that freezes well
Must be in 8 x 8 aluminum pans for uniformity
Recipe and cooking instructions included

Craft/Knit Table

Making items to sell
(crochet, knit, needle work, crafts, sewing, etc)
Working at the table

Silent Auction (aka BID Table)


higher quality items, one of a kind items

Second-Time Around

donations for selling, must be good quality
Please talk to Dianne before bringing it to
the church as storage is an issue

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 PM AA	2 8 PM AA	3 1:00 PM AA Turkey Supper 5 PM
4 Daylight savings 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee Ken's Birthday Celebration	5 6:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM AA	6 7:00 PM NA	7	8 7:30 PM AA	9 8 PM AA	10 1:00 PM AA
11 10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 11:15 Worship	12 7:00 PM AA	13 9:30 AM PEACE CIRCLE 6 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA	14	15 7:30 PM AA	16 8 PM AA	17 BELL BAZAAR 1:00 PM AA
18 10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 2 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	19 Church Conference 7 PM SPRC 6 PM 7:00 PM AA	20 7:00 PM NA	21	22 Thanksgiving 7:30 PM AA 	23 8 PM AA	24 1:00 PM AA
25 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	26 7:00 PM AA	27 6 PM Trustees 7:00 PM NA	28	29 7:30 PM AA	30 8 PM AA	

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR CHANNELS...

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE

