

Urgent Request for Help from First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers Falls

June 8, 2017

Friends,

This past Saturday, there was a very large fire in downtown Wappingers Falls that impacted businesses and residents. Several buildings will need to be demolished, leaving families to find housing in an almost impossible real estate market.

When we heard yesterday about the *urgent, immediate* need for housing, our council of elders met last night and voted to drastically expedite our plans to **move the Thrift Shop & Food Pantry into the church building and make the apartment available to one of the displaced families from the fire as of July 1, 2017.**

In order to do this, we will need a LOT of help.

This Friday and Saturday from 9 AM – 1 PM, the Thrift Shop will hold a “Moving Sale” and the Food Pantry will notify clients of our impending move. Come shop for some bargains!

Next Saturday, June 17, 9 AM – 4:30 PM we will move the Thrift Shop and Food Pantry to the Church basement. We will need MANY hands (and strong backs, and a few trucks!) to make this work. We will need some folks to help pack up in the current location, some to load trucks or carry items across the parking lot, and some to help unload at the other end.

At 4:30, volunteers are welcome to stay for our Free Community Dinner – a cookout in the churchyard. We'll have burgers, hot dogs and salads. (It would be helpful to know how many people we should cook for, so if you know of people coming, please let me know by Thursday 6/15!

Once the space is emptied, we will need to clean, spackle walls, tend to some repairs to ready it for **new residents to move in on 7/1/17.** We will need volunteer assistance for these projects as well.

We also could use some assistance in seeking donations for repairs, purchasing a new refrigerator for the food pantry (we have been using the one in the kitchen of the apartment – now will not have one) and a new furnace (currently, there is no heat or hot water possible in the apartment), in addition to some needed equipment for the Thrift Shop to set up in a different space (clothing racks and shelves) I would be happy to answer any further questions you might have. Please call me at the church office. Please also circulate this request as appropriate to your context.

Thank you!

Reverend Margery A. Rossi, CRE

Pastor

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