Rev's Reflections

Sharing our Bounty

For years, on the first Sunday of each month, we share our bounty with local non-profit organizations that share our values. We give them half of the collection not offered in fulfillment of a pledge. We regularly give to the Jonnycake Center and its various programs, confident in the work that they do.

When we share, it's reminder that we don't have to go it alone. We don't have to do everything, either as individuals or as a congregation.

Since the government shutdown last fall, when SNAP benefits were withheld from millions of Americans, local food pantries, like the one at the Jonnycake Center, were strapped for resources like never before. We responded by having a special collection of food for two consecutive Sundays, piling up donations on our chancel. We collected 178 pounds of food and $68, for which Jonnycake was extremely grateful.

Now that SNAP is (apparently) going to be cut for good, it's become clear that if we want to help our neighbors in need, we need to make Sunday Food collections a regular part of our congregational life.

To that end, I invited members of committees (board, RE, Worship, Stewardship, Finance, and Social Justice) to meet to figure out if and how we should do so. Among those of us who met, it was obvious: we must do something.

We decided to make the first Sunday of each month Food Collection Sunday, so that the children could be involved when they are regularly in the sanctuary. That means switching our regular Share the Plate Collection to the last Sunday of each month.

It's not a big change for us as a congregation, but it's a change that could make a big difference in our community. And, it should be a lot of fun.

Thanks you all for being so generous, and so committed to your community and the health and wellbeing of your neighbors.

In Peace,
Rev Denis