Rev's Reflections

The Season of Giving

First there was Black Friday, then Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and Finally Giving Tuesday. Four out of five consecutive days dedicated to parting us all from our money. Then during my drive this morning, I heard three time on the radio that this is "the season of giving." Yesterday our mailbox was stuffed with requests for donations from local, national, and global charities, plus all four of our alma maters.

There are all sorts of reasons for this dynamic in which so many Americans are spending money like drunken sailors on shore leave, the understanding of which is way above my personal pay grade. But this I know: most of us want to give. The proof is that when I got back on Tuesday from a week of furlough and a week of study, in the sanctuary there was 178 pounds of nonperishable food and $68 in cash for the Jonnycake Food Pantry.

Thank you! Jonnycake and their clients — many of whom thought they would never need this service — thank you. And, if you're still thinking of other ways you can give, ways that will have a real impact, I have two suggestions for you.

The UU Service Committee was born in the pre-WW2 push to get Jews out of Europe, and has grown to serve grassroots justice organizations all over the world. Every December, they present the Guest at Your Table program, through which you can meet justice workers around the world. This year, we're introduced to

- Innovative migration justice leaders housing LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers in Philadelphia
- A Honduran community of water defenders carrying on the legacy of the late Juan Lopez
- Political prisoner Ruth Lopez fighting for government accountability and human rights in El Salvador
- Haitian activists fighting for the rights of people in migration

While Civil Liberties are under attack at home and abroad, this is a great way to join with other UUs in making a big difference.
https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/?_gl=1*1t70qfy*_ga*MTY1NjI4Mzk2NC4xNzYyNDQxNDQ1*_ga_S4XDKGJSCY*czE3NjQ2ODk1MjEkbzIkZzEkdDE3NjQ2ODk3OTMkajYwJGwwJGgxNjU4NjU4Njcx#!/donation/checkout

Or, if you want to give closer to home, you may want to consider giving a little extra to UUCSC. Once again, we are operating with a deficit budget and facing necessary maintenance on our beloved building. An extra donation is a great gift to make to honor the passing of beloved members in the last year, or to pay tribute to a lay leader of the congregation whose dedication you appreciate.

And don't forget that on Tuesday, December 9, we'll have our annual chalice days dinner. The suggested donation is $8 per person or $20 per family for this dinner that has plenty for everyone, regardless of dietary restrictions or ability to pay. It's a joyful meal during a joyful time of sharing and reflecting.

In Peace,
Rev Denis