Giving Tuesday

On Black Friday, we ate at home, took the dog for a long walk and worked, instead of shopping. On Local Saturday we went to a one-off restaurant near our home, instead of shopping. On Cyber Monday I did housework and read, instead of going online and… shopping.

But today, as I write this, it's Giving Tuesday, and my email inbox is flooded with requests from non-profits organizations, and other for-profit organizations (like credit card companies and retailers) collecting on behalf of charities they support. I stopped counting at 50. As overwhelming as it can feel, it still feels like a worthwhile antidote to a whole lot of frivolous spending, knowing that even a little bit can make a big difference.

Back in the days when I still worked in the corporate world, I gave 10% of my gross salary to charitable organizations. Half went to my UU congregation, and the rest was divided among three other causes. I felt good about giving, preferring to live more simply than I could have in order to make a positive impact in the world.

These days, I just don't have the money to give as much as I would like to all those worthy organizations reaching out to me today. 95% of what I give goes to UU organizations: this congregation, the UUA's Living Tradition Fund, and the UU Service Committee. I'm always happy to give to the congregation I serve, in large part because I know that so much of what I give is shared with local organizations.

For the whole month of December, we'll be taking donations to be split between our general fund, the UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table program, and Habitat for Humanity of South County. It's a chance for you to feel good about at least some of the money going out during this season of giving, while supporting this congregation in being a good neighbor.

You can deposit a check into the jar that Mary Fulton and Mary Alice Kimball have made, on Sundays or during any congregational event. You can mail it in or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. You may even want to make your gift on behalf of friends or family who also value the mission of this congregation.

Please know that this isn't a shakedown to give more than you already do. It's just a chance to give a bit differently during a time when so many are in the mood to be charitable.

Thank you for everything you do. And Happy Chalice Days!

In Peace,
Rev Denis