



St. John's United Church of Christ

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Dear St. John's Family,

October 29, 2020

Even though White Gift Sunday, December 6th, is still over a month away, we are eager to share with you our plans for this year's celebration ~ a celebration that will look decidedly different from previous years, for the safety of all. Seeking to make sure those things that characterize our White Gift celebration ~ bringing gifts, seeing the Holy Family and Baby Jesus, hearing Christmas carols, seeing the beautifully decorated Sanctuary ~ do not get lost in the pandemic shuffle, we are envisioning an experience that will safely move you through a variety of "stations" at a manageable pace, spread out over a 2 hour period of time.

You will be invited to come to St. John's on **Sunday, December 6th, between 10:00am and Noon.** Hospitality Team members will guide those who are able to approach the location of the Holy Family ~ who will be safely situated in the glass enclosed elevator entrance on Main St. ~ from the front of the church building. Those with mobility issues will enter the church via the ramp entrance and be guided through the elevator lobby, where you will be able to see the Holy Family from a distance and deposit white gifts on a table in the lobby. Those who arrive at the front of the church will pass by the Holy Family, deposit white gifts on the tables arranged in the courtyard, then enter the church using the steps leading into the elevator lobby.

From the lobby, you will be directed down the side aisle of the Sanctuary to the Narthex, where you will be able to pick up 2021 St. John's calendars and offering envelopes. You will then be guided up the center aisle of the beautifully decorated Sanctuary to deposit your ballot pertaining to the proposed budget for 2021 (you will receive this ballot in your December *Enlightener* and ballots will be available in the Narthex), as well as place offering in a basket in the front of the Chancel. You will then be guided down the side aisle on Richardson Ave. to exit the church. Throughout your visit, both outdoors and indoors, you will be treated with the sound of Christmas carols, played on the chimes by our Minister of Music. For safety reasons, at no point will anyone be sitting in the Sanctuary.

Please do not let these details overwhelm you. There will be folks everywhere on White Gift Sunday to show you the way! **Note: In case of inclement weather, White Gift Sunday will be postponed until the following Sunday, December 13th.** For those who are not able to participate in person on White Gift Sunday, gifts may be dropped off during the week and a brief recorded worship service will be available for your listening pleasure on Sunday, December 6th.

Now take a few moments to check the backside of this page to find important information regarding the recipients of this year's white gifts, along with wish lists from each organization.

Rev. Sue Rev. Addie

Pastor Sue and Pastor Addie



A few important notes about our gifts...



In addition to the adjustments and changes we have had to make for the safety of our church family on White Gift Sunday, there have also been some changes regarding who will receive our white gift donations.

This year, we will continue to support **Urban Promise** in their mission to provide a safe, loving, fun and creative place for the children, youth, and young adults of Camden to learn the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth, and Christian leadership.

Our other recipient will be **Old First United Church of Christ** in Philadelphia which, every year, hosts, shelters, and feeds approximately 30 homeless men through the winter months.

Since the demographic we are collecting for has shifted slightly, please refer to the shopping list below when buying your gifts! On White Gift Sunday, there will be tables on which to place your gifts, so knowing which ministry they are intended for will be very helpful in keeping things organized and moving!

White Gift Sunday 2020 Shopping List

Urban Promise of Camden

*Gifts that Elementary through High School aged youth and young adults would enjoy, including:

Superhero/Disney items, board games, arts and crafts items, trucks, Legos, sports balls/equipment, Barbies and dolls of color, costume jewelry, body lotions and sprays, make-up and brushes, clothing

Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's, Wendy's, AMC movie passes.

Old First UCC Men's Shelter

*Gifts appropriate for adult men of various ages including:

Socks
Hats
Gloves
Masks
Toiletries
Clothing
Shoes

**If you have already purchased gifts that don't quite fit onto either one of these lists, do not worry! Please feel free to bring your gifts anyway and we will be sure to find them a good home! No gift will be turned away and ALL will be appreciated and distributed!

Thank you so much for your excitement and support of this festive and deeply meaningful tradition!