

As plans and activities begin to gear up for the holidays, it is a good time to hold before us what is really important. Honoring Christ in the midst of our celebrations means caring about what he cares about. Making a point to reach out beyond our immediate circle opens a space for Christ to manifest his care to others and also enlarges his presence in our lives. Serving together helps us experience joy in our connection in Christ's family. Please add to your calendar these opportunities to serve others at NPC and beyond.

Thanksgiving Day Offering (Nov. 27)

*Come at 10 a.m. to the Thanksgiving Day service to worship and to participate in offerings to help those in need in our community. Bring **non-perishable food items** and a **financial gift** to offer during the service. These gifts will go to local ministries feeding the hungry, including Third Street Church of God, Martha's Table, Food and Friends, Miriam's Kitchen, So Others Might Eat, and Welcome Table.*

Also, helpers are needed to:

- 1) participate in the **Thursday, November 27** worship service by receiving the food items and placing them on the tables or on the floor as people bring their offerings forward*
- 2) after the service carry the food items downstairs for temporary storage*
- 3) come on **Sunday, November 30** before the Advent Workshop to help pack the food items so they are ready for pick-up in the following week*

The volume of food donations is usually large so please let us know if you will be able to help with any of these needs. Being a part of the physical chain from the giver to one who receives the gift is a blessing for us.

Thanksgiving Luncheon (Nov. 25) and Christmas Luncheon (Dec. 16) for the homeless sponsored by Third Street Church of God/Urban Prayer Breakfast

*Join with others from NPC to help prepare and serve a delicious holiday meal for those who would not otherwise have this privilege. Third Street's doors open early and they can use help from **10 a.m. through mid-afternoon cleanup**. The luncheons typically serve around 500 people each time so please consider spending a couple of hours or the entire time in fellowship and service to others.*

*The luncheons are held at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church (1219 New Jersey Ave NW), right across the street from Third Street Church. Reply to this email or phone the Outreach Office at 202-537-7483 to sign up to help on **November 25 or December 16**.*

Christmas Care Kits for the homeless

*We are collecting **new hats, gloves, and scarves** for Christmas gifts for the homeless, to be distributed by Third Street Church at the annual Christmas luncheon on December 16. Beginning on Sunday, Nov 16, you will find large baskets on the front of the stage in Stone Hall where you may leave these items.*

*Our goal is 200 care kits, so please drop off a number of stretch hats, scarves and warm gloves to reach out in Christ's name. This is a project the whole family can participate in. We are hoping to collect a large quantity before **December 14** when we will all gather **between worship services** on the stage in Stone Hall to pack these items as gifts for those in need.*

Alternative Gifts Christmas Market

*This is a wonderful opportunity to enter into the kind of giving that is 'caring about what Christ cares about.' It is a way to embody this value to our children, friends, and family. In honor of the one to whom you want to give a gift, **make a contribution** to a ministry or organization helping those in need all over the world.*

*There is a lot of energy around the market this year and much thought, effort, and prayer has gone into making a simplified, user-friendly market featuring projects that NPC members are involved in and believe in. **Helpers** are needed for the market. If you can help, please contact Ann Kaguyutan KaguyutanA@usa.redcross.org or call her at 202-462-4105 (h) by Friday, November 21.*

You can help or purchase gifts on these days:

Advent Workshop, Sunday, **November 30**
After Sunday Services, **December 7**
Messiah concert reception, **December 7**
Dinner before Lenten Service Wednesday, **December 9**
After Sunday Services **December 14**
NPC Choir Christmas Concert **December 14**
Dinner before Lenten Service, Wednesday, **December 16**
After Sunday Services, **December 21**
Bach Consort Christmas concert, Sunday, **December 21**

Thank you. Be blessed in serving together.