



The Church Mouse

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November 2017 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org

Website: www.rhccucc.org

Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

Consecration Sunday Is Coming! November 12th



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. On Sunday November 12th we will receive a special message, offer our pledge cards, and dedicate our pledges to God's work during our time of worship. There will be announcements in church in the coming weeks. Please watch your mail for your pledge card. Pledge cards will also be available at church. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in this year's Consecration Sunday.

Sincerely, The Stewardship Committee



Recently in Massachusetts I saw an odd sight in the parking lot of a convenience store. It was a pole for a phone booth with lights at the top. There was only one problem—the phone booth was gone but the blue sign saying “Phone” was still attached to the pole. We all know that with the advent of cell phones the public phone booth has become obsolete. I saw a couple recently in California, and it surprised me. I haven’t seen a public phone in years, as I think of it.

The phone pole struck me as funny because the phone wasn’t there but the sign pointing to it was. It made me think of the changes that have happened in our world in our lifetime. I have often marveled that in my parent’s lifetimes they went from auto mobiles that had to be cranked and telephones that also had to be cranked to cell phones and travel in outer space. In my own lifetime we have gone from mainframe computers that ran the early missions to the moon, to smart phones (which are actually small computers) that are many times more powerful than the computers that ran the lunar missions.

We all know the world is changing, and at times I wish the change would slow down. It is easy to look for vestiges of the past, which sometimes is ignored in the rush to continually miniaturize computer chips so that more capability can be crammed into the same size of chip. The world is in a rush, and often the rush to make progress leaves people behind. Many in our society look for the latest permutation of the Iphone while thousands of children die each day of starvation and disease. When the world progresses it does not do so evenly, for all people. There’s still work for the church to do.

In our faith we have many things which point toward something else. The familiar symbols give us comfort. At times those symbols themselves can become outdated and lose meaning, such as the blue phone sign on the pole. I can imagine a modern teenager looking at the sign and wondering why the word “phone” would be on it. Perhaps not. Maybe they would have heard about public phones from their parents.

The phone sign on the pole looks to the past. It’s helpful to have signposts that remind us of where we have come from, but more than ever we need signposts that point us toward the future. They’re around, but we have to look for them. The important thing is to not mistake one for the other, to mistake a feeling of nostalgia for a direction for the future. Let’s keep looking together as we see the present unfolding into the future, where God will be waiting for us!

In Christ,

Craig



In Loving Memory

Thomas Schreier

*A memorial service for long-time church member
Thomas Schreier will be held on
Saturday, November 4th at 11:00 a.m. at
the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.*

*A luncheon reception will follow the service in Chapin Hall.
All church members and friends of the Schreier family are welcomed to attend.*



Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree

Help us decorate the Warm Heart Tree in Chapin Hall with new, donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for all ages. In addition, tube socks for men are also very much needed. This year, the tree is named in memory of Tom and Doris Schreier, who started the tradition.

Donations will be collected from November 26 to January 7.

The donated items will benefit the Foster Children's Association of Rocky Hill; St. Agnes Home; MALT Mobil Hospital Van; and WAIM, an organization that provides clothing and other assistance to families in the Windham area. For questions, please contact Gail Tine.

All Saints

Memorial Sunday, November 5

On the Sunday after All Saints Day, we will remember all those who have gone before us. During the service, we will have the opportunity to bring a candle up to the front and light it in memory of a loved one. Candles will also be provided. You might bring a favorite candle holder that reminds you of someone. Join us as we remember together all the saints who have come before us.



ICON OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER

The icon of the month for November is a copy of a ca. 1300 icon painted in Constantinople. The original is at the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai. This icon depicts the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused to worship the golden statue made by King Nebuchadnezzar. This scene has become an archetypal image of God delivering the faithful from trials. The text around the icon describes the scene.
Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.



In the last two newsletters, I shared with you the faith statements of two of this year's confirmands. The remaining two are exercising their right to not have their statements published. (I think they're shy about it). Those of you who heard their statements in person have remarked on how well done and inspirational they were.

Instead, I will share with you a perspective that these confirmands developed during our mission trip to Louisiana. They have spoken about how the trip helped create a sense of teamwork among group members. The word "teamwork" is natural to use, especially since some of the work projects truly required youth working together, as a team, to accomplish a task. But once the tasks were done, we played together, ate together, worshipped together, shared thoughts together – there were no tasks to accomplish, but we were still functioning by being together. "Teamwork" comes partway in describing these aspects of our trip, but there is another word that I think could bring us even closer.

Boston University practical theologian Courtney Goto articulates this well:

"The formation of groups is cultivated intentionally in fields such as business, athletics, and science – where learning and working as a team are essential. Religious education is similar but slightly different, particularly in the values we hope to impart to learners (in this case, love). Instead of building "team spirit," I am advocating communal formation in which learners challenge implicit assumptions by relating to one another (and others, in this instance) vulnerably and authentically, which I am symbolizing as love. In secular frames of reference, teamwork is often for the purpose of producing a tangible product – for example, a marketing plan, a championship, or a scientific discovery. In religious education, embodying what a community hopes and imagines for itself in light of faith is both the means as well as the end."

The mission trip was important for not only developing teamwork which accomplished tasks, but also for developing community built on authentic relating, and woven together by love. This, I believe, is the distinguishing factor of faith-based mission trips which inspires participants to proclaim how much their lives have been changed by the experience, even though they may not, at the time, recognize it as such.

And so, I am grateful that our youth have publicly stated that they would like to go again on a mission trip, and that our congregation is willing to support them. Next year's trip will be to Pipestem, West Virginia from July 8-14, 2018. We will be working with the Appalachian South Folklife Center.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News



Church School

From November 12 to December 3:

Pre-K to 5th graders will be learning about stewardship, through a unit called “Money and Time.” They will have the opportunity to learn that:

- there are many ways for us to use our talents, time, and money to serve God;
- all that we have comes to us as a gift from God;
- stewardship is an important part of living as a follower of Jesus;
- stewardship means being a good manager of all God has given to us;
- as good stewards, we are to take care of the gifts God has given to us and use them to serve others;
- talents are the skills and abilities that we have to offer in service to God;
- giving gifts of our time and talents is worth just as much to the church as giving gifts of money or possessions.

6th-8th graders will be discussing the following topics:

Encountering God, God’s Faithfulness, God’s Triumph, Hope

Youth Groups

In October, the Middle School Youth Group had a blast and a lot of laughter as we tackled the Corn Mazes at the Foster Family Farm. We capped off the evening with dinner at Five Guys. Later that month, we visited a nursing home in Rocky Hill. We dressed in Halloween costumes and passed out non-sweet treats to the residents.

The High School Youth Group went go-karting, bumper boating, and mini-golfing on October 1. Brian Speers wins for fastest go-karter, Julia O’Connor wins for drenching the most people from her boat, and Nick Alessi wins for completing the golf course. The group also helped with the Church Fair, earning funds for the 2018 mission trip.

In November, the Middle School Youth Group will go bowling (Nov. 12) and will bake cookies (Nov. 26) for the Cookie Walk.

The High School Youth Group will have an old-fashioned ice cream social (Nov. 5) and will put on the Baked Potato Fundraiser (Nov. 19).

Georgette Huie



Missions Update:

2017 Hurricane Relief

THANK YOU! Contributions to our church's "2017 Hurricane Relief" fund topped \$7,099. These monies will support the disaster ministries of our covenantal partners who are meeting the needs of survivors throughout the Southeast U.S. and Puerto Rico, and the other Caribbean islands: cleanup, repair and reconstruction of homes, tools, building materials, community organizing, mental health and spiritual care. The donations have been distributed as follows:

- Church World Service (CWS) = \$1,666.81
- Global Ministries = \$2,073.41
- United Church of Christ, Disaster Ministries: \$2,000
- Supplies for the CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets = \$1,359.71

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

In his message to our congregation one Sunday morning in October, visiting Pastor Bob Henderson charged us to “Give back to God.” He shared stories of ordinary people living passionate lives. “Where we find our passions, we find where we are alive. It is where our religion meets the road.” Throughout November, December, and January, the Board for Missions and many volunteers have organized opportunities to help us “Give back to God.” Please join us!

Turkey and a Thirty – Sunday, November 19

Please help us provide a hot meal for families throughout Greater Hartford this Thanksgiving. Our collection will be held on **Sunday, November 19 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon** in front of the church. Volunteers will be on hand to accept your gifts of frozen turkeys and/or a monetary donation in any amount. **Please make checks payable to Foodshare.** Last year, Foodshare helped provide over 14,000 turkeys for our neighbors. And, when you include a check for \$30, Foodshare can help fight hunger all year long...supplying food to about 300 food pantries, community kitchens and homeless shelters in Hartford and Tolland counties; serving about 11.5 million meals a year. **Help us reach our goal: 100 turkeys and \$3,000 for Foodshare!** Tell your family and friends! For questions, please contact Bob Inderbitzen.



Missions Update:

Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree

Help us decorate the Warm Heart Tree in Chapin Hall with new, donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for all ages. In addition, tube socks for men are also very much needed. This year, the tree is named in memory of Tom and Doris Schreier, who started the tradition. Donations will be collected from November 26 to January 7. The donated items will benefit the Foster Children's Association of Rocky Hill; St. Agnes Home; MALT Mobil Hospital Van; and WAIM, an organization that provides clothing and other assistance to families in the Windham area. For questions, please contact Gail Tine.

Covenant to Care for Children

We support a Covenant to Care social worker all year long. In December, we'll present the social worker with gift cards, so she and her fellow case workers can shop for Christmas gifts for many of the teenagers they serve. You can purchase gift cards on your own, or through the church's Scrip program (for example, donate \$25 via our Scrip program, indicating "Covenant to Care," and the church will purchase gift cards for our social worker). Gift card suggestions include Target, Walmart, iTunes, Amazon, and movie theaters. For questions, please contact Heather Collins. Or visit the Scrip table in Chapin Hall after worship each Sunday.

March of the Toys! – Sunday, December 10

We'll collect unwrapped toys on Sunday, December 10. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need. Many social workers in the area 'shop' at the Hartford Seminary for the families they support. If you're unable to attend worship on December 10, please contact any member of the Board for Missions to arrange an earlier drop-off.

Diaper Drive – Sunday, January 7, 2018

The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut. We'll collect diapers during the Epiphany Pageant on Sunday, January 7.

THANK YOU for helping us Give Back to God! Together, we're changing lives...here, near, and far!

Board for Missions: Heather Collins, Anita Hawkins, Bob Inderbitzen (co-chair), Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg, Sue Speers, Wendy Ware (co-chair), and Benevolence Treasurer Kathy Morgan



It's ba-a-ack: The Baked Potato Fundraiser!

Sunday, November 19 after worship
\$5 per potato
freshly baked with all the fixings

*Proceeds to benefit the High School Youth
Group mission trip to repair homes in West
Virginia in July 2018*



RHCC Golf Tournament

This year's fall RHCC golf tournament was held Sunday, September 17, 2017 at the Wethersfield Country Club. (23) golfers tackled the challenging course - there were no injuries, all returned safely and everyone had a great time. The winning foursome even had a sub-par round! We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to play such a wonderful golf course and the hospitality of our host and RHCC UCC member, Todd Doten. Todd and the Country Club have provided a memorable golf experience for our group every year since 2011. We all owe him our thanks.



PRAYERS FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Please help us pray for everyone affected by the devastating wildfires in Northern California -- for lives lost, for those who are missing, and for recovery amidst devastation that has burned down homes and displaced thousands. We have also learned that the home of John Fornachon and Bobby Jo Valentine has burned down. Bobby is a songwriter and musician who has performed at our church several times. He is a beloved and favorite performer at many of our congregations of the United Church of Christ. May they all feel God's presence and the love and support of all of us. See a Deacon of visit or [facebook page](#) for ways to help.

2017 Country Fair

THANKS to the Committee members, Booth Chairs and all the Volunteers for their hard work to make this year's fair a success! Also thanks to the many people who donated baked goods and items to be sold, and to the shoppers!



Photos by Peter Alessi



HERITAGE SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 5

We will honor our 50+ year Members at a Special Service at 10 a.m.

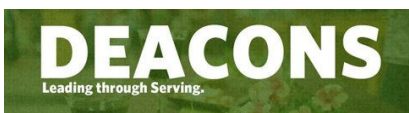
A breakfast for our 50+ members will be held at 9:15am

in Chapin Hall before Worship.

Join us as we celebrate our 50-year members, and our long history as RHCC! Please feel free to bring photos, mementos, and any

historical items related to the church, and place them on the table in Chapin Hall that morning.

Church illustration done by Nancy Edwards



Did you know that the Diaconate Board maintains a ***Helping Hand Fund*** to assist Church members and their families who are in emergency need, and, as appropriate, members of the community? Whenever you or someone you know has a need for a Helping Hand, please bring it to the attention of either the Senior Deacon, Deb Copes, or the Minister, Craig Cowing. All disbursements from the Helping Hand Fund are made confidentially, and, as needed, the fund is sustained by our Church's special offerings at Thanksgiving or Christmas.



2017-2018 Confirmation Class Lesson Schedule

Classes and meetings are held with Rev. Craig in the Parlor.

Sun	Nov. 12	5-7 PM	Ch 4 The Bible
Sun	Nov. 26	5-7 PM	Ch 5 The History of Christianity/UCC
Sun	Dec 10	<i>No class (Lessons and Carols)</i>	



On Sunday, November 19th we will welcome into our Church Family:

Susan and Frank Chatfield

Wendy Cowan

If you'd like to learn more about our church community; please join us during coffee hour after worship and ask to speak with Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon. We are an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people. All are welcome here!



SCRIP-SURE: November-December Schedule

November and December are the two busiest months for scrip sales. Some of that is because many of us buy gift cards to give as Christmas gifts. But an even bigger opportunity is to use scrip to fund some of your own Christmas shopping. If you'll be shopping at Walmart, or Toys R Us, or Macy's, or J.C. Penney, or L.L. Bean, or Amazon, or Home Depot, or Lowe's, or Kohl's, or any of the other hundreds of retailers available through our scrip program, then you can buy scrip for those retailers and use it to pay for your Christmas shopping.

Over the past three years, we earned 60% more in the months of November and December than in the other months of the year. Of course, we'll continue to stock the usual cards in inventory. But if prior years are an indication, you'll be ordering a lot of cards that we don't usually stock. Therefore, to support your extra shopping needs, we'll be placing scrip orders on the following dates:

Place your order by	Pick up your cards on
October 29	November 5
November 12	November 19
November 26	December 3
December 10	December 17

E-cards are also available from many retailers, so if you don't get your order placed in time, you can often get a digital gift card emailed to you within minutes of your request. Notable retailers offering e-cards include Amazon, L.L. Bean, Barnes & Noble, Kohl's, Home Depot, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Gap/Old Navy, and Staples. If you want an e-card (or info about availability), just send an e-mail to treasurer@rhccucc.org and I can usually fill those orders quickly.

Information and listings of participating retailers are available at the scrip table in Chapin Hall, or online at rhccucc.org/scrip

Think SCRIP!
Dave Hall, Treasurer

Lessons & CAROLS

Save the Date for our:

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Held in the Sanctuary of
Rocky Hill Congregational Church
with full choir, pipe organist, and instrumentalists.

A truly unique and moving experience!

Reception follows the service.

All are welcome to attend.



Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsals:

Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays Children from 11:20am - 11:40am

Adult Choir from 11:40am - 12:30pm

Wednesdays Adult Choir 7:00-7:45pm

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones
With Christmas Poinsettias*



*The Plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Sunday December 24th and into the New Year.*

The cost is \$12.50 per plant

Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 17th

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (see address below)

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone number: _____

Dedication ("in loving memory of..." or "in honor of..." etc.):

1. _____

2. _____

This year a choice of either a Red or White Poinsettia is available.

Please select:

[] RED POINSETTIA

[] WHITE POINSETTIA

[] I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 24th

OR

[] Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas and the New Year

Make your checks payable to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church with "Poinsettia" in memo line and mail to:

Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.

You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.



November

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01 Neal Cox
01 Bill Pierson
01 Lanaya Rupaka
01 Kristin Rutigliano
02 Kathleen Bergamo
03 Phil Swain
05 Meghan Wilcock
06 Tom Matthias
06 Mary DeLibero
07 Michael McKenna
08 Rob Grandell
08 Alyssa Somes Kellogg
09 Lisa Taylor
09 Jennifer Martin

10 Jon Morgan
11 Dale Rowland
12 Diana Belliveau
13 Donna Rowland
13 Kari McCaw
15 Roland Lataille
19 Robert Simmons
19 Sheila Elliot
20 Mary-Edith Bowman
20 Hannah Fuller
22 Julia Pawlich
24 Kim Batterson-Biglow
25 Jeannie Alessi
25 Will McKenna
30 Gael Curtin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Joseph and Janet Kunzelman were married on November 3, 1958

Danielle Gillis and Christopher J. Mason were married on November 22, 2015

PRAYER SHAWL ANNUAL GATHERING

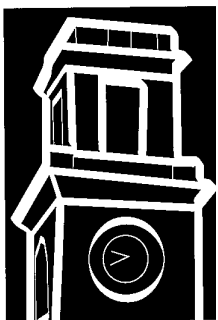
Saturday, November 4 10am – 2pm

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church – Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, 285 Church Street, Hartford. Doors open at 9:30am. Free parking across the street. Please join us for our annual interfaith gathering of the Shawl Ministry circles in Connecticut and beyond. During our time,

there will be opportunities for knitting/crochet, prayer, a storytelling, and sharing. Please bring: *your knitting/crochet, stories, ideas, tips, prayers, and shawls. * your own lunch.

Beverages, morning goodies and dessert will be provided. For more information on RHCC

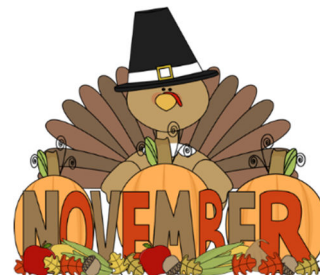
Prayer Shawl Ministry, contact Denise Carberry.





WORSHIP SCHEDULE **Sunday Morning Worship** **Communion 1st Sunday** **10:00 a.m. with childcare**



CHILD
care
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>Childcare and Church School held every Sunday during 10:00am Worship</i></p>			<p>1 <i>All Saints Day</i></p> <p>7pm Lessons&Carols Choir 7:45pm Adult Choir</p>
<p>5 Heritage Sunday 9am Heritage Breakfast 10am Worship w/Communion 11:20am L&C choir HS Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Election Day RH Schools Closed Preschool Closed</p> <p>7pm Boards & Committees 7pm Hearing Voices</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am Breakfast Club at Bob's Coffee Shop</p> <p>7pm Lessons&Carols Choir 7:45pm Adult Choir</p>
<p>12 Consecration Sunday 10am Worship 11:20am L&C choir 4pm Piano Recital 5pm Confirmation Class MS Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm Ferry Landing Condo 7pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p> 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Hearing Voices</p>	<p>15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>7pm Preschool Board Mtg 7pm Lessons&Carols Choir 7:45pm Adult Choir</p>
<p>19 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00am Worship Youth Baked Potato Sale! Turkey and a \$30 Drive 11:20am L&C choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm Bonsai Group 7pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Town Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7pm</p> <p>6pm Cedar Hollow 7pm Hearing Voices</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Preschool Closed →</p> <p>7pm Lessons&Carols Choir 7:45pm Adult Choir</p>
<p>26 10:00am Worship 11:20am L&C choir</p> <p>5pm Confirmation Class MS Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>NEWSLETTER MAILING 9:30am</p> <p> 7pm Cedar Hollow Mtg 7pm Hearing Voices</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7pm Lessons&Carols Choir 7:45pm Adult Choir</p>



Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays Children from 11:20am - 11:40am
 Adult Choir from 11:40am - 12:30pm

Wednesdays Adult Choir 7:00-7:45pm

November 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	3 6pm Tamil School	4 11am Memorial Service For <i>Tom Schreier</i> Noon Reception in Chapin Hall <i>Turn clocks back</i>
9 9:30am Music Together 7pm Fair Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	10 Veteran's Day (observed) RH Schools Closed Preschool Closed 6pm Tamil School	11 Veteran's Day
16 9:30am Music Together 7pm Tibetan Bowls Meditation 7:30pm Men's AA	17 6pm Tamil School	18
23 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING 7:30pm Men's AA	24 OFFICE CLOSED No Tamil School	25 
30 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA		



Thursday, November 16, 7pm - Sound Healing with Tibetan Singing Bowls

Held in the Weil Chapel. During this meditation hour, Rev Craig Cowing will use the healing vibrations of the singing bowls to uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend! Bring a yoga mat or blanket, and non-perishable food or hygiene item for the town food pantry.



ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed October 30, 2017



Jesus didn't turn people away.
Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



A Turkey



& Thirty

A Campaign to Help

FOODSHARE  **Solve Hunger**
"When hunger stops, so will we."
www.foodshare.org

Turkey and a Thirty

...to benefit families served by Foodshare

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Drop-off 9 AM to 12 Noon

(in front of the church)

Donate a frozen turkey and \$30, or any donation
(checks payable to "Foodshare")

Help us reach our goal: 100 turkeys and \$3,000 for Foodshare!