

## MIDWEEK MISSIVE 01/23/19

In late December, I remember thinking, "It's so great that winter has decided to skip us this year!" Well, that might have been the optimist in me, because winter certainly has decided to show up! Jim Flaxington tells me that the chapel was warm and cozy for a nice Saturday evening service, and I hope you all were able to stay warm and inside on Sunday morning. It was a great day to sit back and watch the snow fall...and the Pats win! If weather threatens any of our activities in the future, watch for an email and check the website alerting you to any changes. And as always, if you feel unsafe, stay put and stay safe!

Having a couple of days of being snowbound has given me a chance to sit back, and reflect about what is going on in our country and in our shared life at the Candleberry Chapel. The world around us is in turmoil. Our political leaders find themselves at an impasse and government workers and those needing government services find themselves bearing the brunt of that impasse. No, I am not going to talk about blame or launch into political discourse. But I am going to give voice to a question that many of us have: what can we as Christians do? And maybe more importantly, what can we as members of the Candleberry Chapel do?

We can pray. We can call/write/email our Representatives, Senators and President and urge them to seek some way to keep government workers working while sorting out the political issues at hand. Some may be surprised to read this from me, but I firmly believe that as Christians, we should participate in ways our faith leads us. I am not advocating a course of action, just that people of faith speak up. There are several different political points of view in our congregation. But I hope we can all agree that our government workers should not bear the load that politicians have placed on them.

Finally, we can help by donating to the Attleboro Food Bank/Food n Friends program. I have reached out to Pam Tarallo who coordinates the efforts and she has sent over a list of needed items. (It is at the bottom of this email.) When you go to the grocery store, pick up a can or two extra and bring them to the Chapel when you come to worship. Folks in our congregation are impacted by this shutdown, as well as folks we don't know. Let's all give a little...it may help a lot.

I started out by saying the world is in turmoil. And yes, the world, our leaders, our neighbors, and folks we don't even know are in need of our prayers, and our support. But in the midst of the world's turmoil, we have much to celebrate: the fellowship of the Candleberry Chapel; family and friends who enrich our lives; healing, hope and new possibilities all around us. As you pray today, give thanks for the celebrations as well as asking for help for the concerns. They are both part of what it means to be the Body of Christ.

Be peaceful,  
Rev. Brad

### FOOD 'N FRIENDS NEEDS

Please Remember  
*No expired food*  
*No opened food*  
*No rusted cans*  
*No bulged cans*

Tunafish  
Canned chicken  
Canned meats  
Cereal  
Flavored Oatmeal (individual)  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Breakfast bars  
Pancake mix  
Bisquick  
Muffin mix  
Tea  
Coffee  
Hot Chocolate  
Juice  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Deodorant  
Soap  
Laundry Soap  
Can openers  
Fruit  
Canned Corn  
Cream Corn  
Green Beans  
Mushrooms  
Cranberry Sauce  
Baked Beans (do not need other beans)  
Pasta  
Pasta Sauce  
Tomato products  
Rice  
Canned Meals (ex: spaghetti, etc...)  
Cookies  
Crackers  
Noodles  
Crackers  
Snacks  
Shelf Milk  
Condiments  
Cake/cookie mixes  
Frosting  
Jello  
Pudding

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi