

From Sandra's Study
Rev. Sandra Fees

Most of us have begun to plan and celebrate the holiday season with family and friends. As religious people, our celebrations also include time for spiritual reflection, worship, and special acts of caring. Some of our acts of caring we do as individuals, but many of them we do collectively as a church community. Here are just a few ways we are caring for our local community and reaching out to the world as a community:

- During the winter, our monthly food pantry serves more people than ever, which means we also need more volunteers. If you can help, contact Liz Eshelman or Karen Achenbach.
- We are once again collecting warm coats and cold-weather clothes to distribute at the monthly pantry, thanks to the dedication of Ruth Epler.
- For the first time, we are providing holiday gifts for 20 children and youth whose parents are incarcerated. (All names have been taken.)
- The minister's discretionary fund continues to be an important source of confidential support to church families and people in the local community who have emergency and one-time needs, which only increase during the holidays and winter months when utility bills skyrocket.
- We take time to educate ourselves about the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee through the Guest at Your Table Program, which supports human rights worldwide, and to contribute financially to the program. Contact Cindy Mock or Mike Szajna for information.
- In December our monthly plate collection will benefit The Children's Home of Reading. Contact the social justice team for more information.

We are blessed to have the talent, energy, and resources of our committed members and friends to reach out in these ways. We are blessed as a religious community with the spirit of the season – with love, peace, and justice.

With love and best wishes for a blessed holiday,
Sandra