



## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3 1/2 East Main Street, Canton, New York 13617-1417

December 7, 2020

Dear Beloved Community,

Very recently the Church and Community Program (CCP) got a call from a family who needed emergency food. They had just moved to Canton and their food stamps were not yet available, so the husband came in and was very grateful for anything he could get. As it turns out, he and his wife have a child and a baby. CCP had distributed food earlier in the week, but still had a good supply of everything, so they loaded him up with 2 quarts of milk, 3 cases of food and some donated toilet paper. He was very polite, very relieved, and, as he said, "blessed." In turn, CCP felt blessed to be able to help people who need it.

Decades ago the UU Church of Canton helped start the CCP. The area churches came together to pool their resources in order to help those in the most need. This important work continues on through the pandemic. In the past few months, you may have seen news reports showing the long lines of cars as people waited to receive food. CCP experienced this during the summer when they partnered with other food providers to distribute the Farm-to-Family food boxes. They could get hundreds of cases of food through the USDA and the Food Bank of Central New York. It took 30-40 volunteers and a couple of weeks of organizing because they needed refrigeration and space for 300 cars, but they did it. The largest distribution was 900 cases of food (a case of meat, another of dairy products and a third one of fruit/veggies). CCP ended up serving 300 families from all over St. Lawrence County.

This holiday season will no doubt diverge from our usual customs, traditions, and routines. As you celebrate, we ask you to remember those who are less fortunate. There is a simple way we can help locally and that is by supporting the CCP. We will be grateful if you send an offering by mail or donate online by writing 'Holiday Appeal' as a memo. These contributions help ensure that our neighbors' needs for food, clothing and shelter will be met during the long winter months so that together we can all be blessed.

In peace,

The Rev. James Galasinski