

UUC Christmas Boxes 2020

Filling Christmas boxes for families in need in our community is an annual tradition at the Union University Church, and results in a richer celebration of our Lord's birth both for the receivers and the givers. This year we will again have members of the congregation sponsor local families and take responsibility for filling the box with a variety of food and gift items. **By SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22ND**, UUC families who have expressed an interest in sponsoring a Christmas Box will be given the details of the family they are sponsoring. Here are deadlines and considerations for this project.

- **Filled boxes** should be returned to the Church Center **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6TH**.
- Take your box home and fill it with food items that will allow your family to prepare side dishes for a Christmas dinner. Make sure to include items in quantities that are appropriate for the size of the family. Items might include:
 - Stuffing mix
 - Gravy
 - Boxed mashed potatoes
 - Yams, beans, or other canned vegetables
 - Cranberry sauce
 - Pie filling and pie crust kits
 - Cake mixes
 - Quick bread mixes
 - Candy, nuts, or other treats

Pantry items are also very helpful to families and could be included in your box.

- Flour and sugar in 5 lb. bags
 - Peanut butter and jam
 - Jell-O and pudding mixes
 - All kinds of veggies and fruit; soup
 - Tuna, beef stew or other nutritious meals in a can
 - Cereal (hot or cold)
 - Pasta & spaghetti Sauce
 - Macaroni & Cheese
- Once all boxes have been dropped at church **BY DECEMBER 6TH**, the Diaconate will add a turkey and a tin of cookies for each family.
 - Purchase gifts for each member of the family. Try to keep gifts of approximately equal value for all family members.
 - Purchase a gift for each child suitable for his or her age.
 - UUC children and youth are happy to provide ideas of good gifts for those impossible-to-buy-for teens!
 - Include a small, modest gift for each adult, such as socks, books, gloves, or toiletries.
 - Wrap each gift and tag it with the name of the family member.
 - Stocking stuffers are welcome, especially if you are combining resources with several families. These items should be placed in a sealed non-transparent bag marked "For Parents' Eyes Only!"
 - Place all gifts into a shopping bag or with your box. Use as many shopping bags as needed; just be sure all bags are clearly labeled with the box number and the parents' names, identical to the names and number on the food box.
 - **Other ways to help:** If you feel you cannot take on the responsibility of filling a box:
 - A FINANCIAL DONATION to purchase turkeys and additional items for the boxes is welcome. *Please give your donation to the UUC church office.*
 - PURCHASE 2-DOZEN OR MORE CHRISTMAS COOKIES and bring them to Church **no later than Dec. 6th**. Leave in kitchen & label "For UUC Christmas Boxes."
 - DONATE FOOD ITEMS listed above and place in Loretta's Room (any food intended for the Food Pantry should be placed in the Church Center foyer boxes as usual).

Please contact any member of the diaconate for assistance. Our thanks to everyone who is helping to keep this traditional ministry alive in our church.