

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Harvest! It's a time of coming home, reaping what has been planted; warm and hearty foods. It's about taking stock for the winter and taking a rest from the labors of the field – for the farmers anyway. For you it's a time to gear back up for school or work or soccer; a time of apple crisps and pumpkin ice cream. Harvest time also reminds us of the plenty some enjoy and of the needs of others.

Our Harvest time here at Mt Sinai is about how we give thanks for and share what we have. So for the second year in a row we designate October as Hunger Awareness month and join the United Church of Christ's Hunger campaign which is called Mission I.

I am hyper-aware of how much the church calls upon you to do. I sometimes hear that people have left the church because they didn't know how to handle or respond to all the appeals for money. I am always sorry when I hear that because there are many ways to give and they don't have to cost a cent. If you can pray for those in need, you have made an offering. If you are struggling too much to offer anything, let us pray for and help you.

God calls us to share of our time and talent and treasure. **Here are your opportunities** during Hunger Awareness Month, some of them requiring no more than your signature on a letter. Thanks in advance for all you do!

The annual United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Appeal: collected every fall here is a very traditional way to donate money to our denominations work among the needy. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins.

Supermarket Food Drives Are you willing to sit outside of the supermarket in your town to ask shoppers for food donations? This is your Saturday: October 15th! Bring your youth group, scout troop, Mahjong club!

Bread for the World Letter Writing Campaign As Board of Christian Outreach does every year we invite you to write letters to our elected officials about our concern for the hungry. Letters, templates, addresses are all provided during coffee hour on October 16th. We'll even pay the postage!

CROP Walk Walk to raise awareness about our hungry neighbors. Ask your family, co-workers and friends to sponsor you to raise money for local food pantries. October 23rd in Port Jefferson Village.

Thanksgiving Dinner Food Drive Help provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family in need. You may bring in a single can of corn or an entire dinner – as you are able. Collection concludes November 13th and reminder magnets for your fridge will be available.

As a final note I wish to thank the food pantry volunteers at Island Heart and at the MSCC's emergency pantry, who serve week in and week out to bring food to the hungry. Thank you to the Board of Christian Outreach in their dedication to justice and peace. Thank you to all of you who make an offering of your time, talent or treasure in the name of Christ, Jesus. – Peace, Rev. Diane