

THE CHIMES

Dec. 5, 2019

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Alicia: Let Christ child's light shine in these dark days	2
Connections Thanksgiving Dinner for Young Adults	2
Outreach: Thanksgiving Bag Project report and Thanks	3
People & Prayers	4-5
Birthdays	5
Altar Flowers	5
Potato Drop	5
Finance Corner	6

**Christmas Eve
Pageant:
6 p.m. Dec. 24**

Articles for *The Chimes* must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: media@uumcsyracuse.org or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor



We're on a journey...

"Are We There Yet?" Christmas is less than three weeks away, but there's still a ways to go.

That complaint from bored children on a long trip is the theme for our Advent worship series, as we journey to Christmas. But instead of a whine, let it be a call to work and worship in this season of light.

We stopped at "Peace" on Dec. 1. Future destinations are "Hope" on Dec. 8, "Joy" on Dec. 15 and "Love" on Dec. 22.

Many events are still to come in this season of anticipation.

This Sunday, Dec. 8, is the annual tradition of "Bringing in Christmas," the day we contribute warm winter outerwear — coats, hats, gloves, scarves — as well as socks, that will go to our Food Pantry guests.

Also this Sunday, is the Advent Potluck Luncheon after worship in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to pass and your place setting, if you are able. Bring an instrument if you have one, so you can join our "Pickup Orches-

tra," which will play carols for the rest of us to sing.

For Dec. 15, our choir will be presenting a Lessons & Carols program by composers J.S. Bach, John Rutter and Robert Lau, with organ, trumpet and drum accompaniment.

The very next day, Dec. 16, is our annual Neighborhood Christmas Dinner. Volunteers are needed to serve and contribute desserts.

Our Handbell Choir will perform on Dec. 22 in worship.

An Advent Bible Study began Dec. 6 on the Gospel of Luke, but you can come to the two remaining sessions Dec. 13 and 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chappell Room.

The Christmas Eve pageant, with the children portraying the Christmas story, has a **new starting time this year: 6 p.m. Dec. 24**. Rehearsal is 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 21 in the sanctuary.

There's also a combined service with Erwin First UMC and UUMC at 10 p.m. Dec. 24 at Erwin First.

From our pastor...

Let Christ child's light shine through during dark days



Alicia Wood

Happy Advent!
I'm very excited about Advent and the Christmas season this year!
Getting ready for Christmas can overwhelm us with

our long to-do lists and even larger list of expectations we put on ourselves.

If we can take a breath, and reflect, on the long, dark month of December, the Advent message will shine through.

We sometimes focus so much on Christmas we forget Advent reminds us of how to live a Christian life.

The Advent message of peace, hope, joy and love while keeping our focus on Jesus is the way we can live all year.

I've been watching the Netflix show *The Crown*. It is a show based on the lives of Queen Elizabeth and her family. The latest episode I watched featured the family watching the astronauts and Apollo mis-



A photo of Earthrise taken by the astronauts on Apollo 8 as they orbited the moon.

sions.

It struck me to see the family around the TV watching something so historic.

For some it was a spiritual moment. When the broadcaster said, "This may give a new perspective of unity and cohesion that may cause a shift in us," it took my breath away.

1968 and 1969 were years of chaos much like this year has been. We need a shift in us now. The image of the Earth from the moon was so beautiful and awe-inspiring. The

Earth was one. The people from one common place. A planet called Earth.

The Christmas Eve message from Apollo 8 was the creation text from Genesis. How fitting. God knows creation as good. Jesus was born to remind us of our goodness. He taught us how to live with peace, hope, joy and love.

As we move through Advent and the Christmas season, let's not focus on to-do lists and expectations of the "perfect" Christmas but keep in mind God's creation and its goodness with our focus on Jesus.

Let the light of the Christ child shine through the dark days of December so that we are awe-inspired and moved to live in this Christmas Spirit year round.

Peace,
Pastor Alicia

P.S. Here are some links to remind us of the message of the Apollo Missions:

https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo8_xmas.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL66BJdGQYw>



Zach and Bethany Markley



Bryce Linehan and Jules Colantonio



Paola Marin

About a dozen young adults enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner at the Nelson Price/Barbara Fought home Nov. 17.



Bell Johnson and Nneka Eke

Final Thanksgiving Bag Project total: 188 families served



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, University United Methodist Church distributed 170 Thanksgiving Bags to 170 households.

These bags were brought home to people's families, which includes 274 adults and 190 children.

Another 18 bags were distributed to "standby" folk, making it 188 households. (We do not have a good assessment of how many folk these 18 bags fed).

Minimally, 482 UUMC neighbors were given food for their Thanksgiving holiday.

Much of the food gathered for this event was gotten through the Food Bank of CNY, which acquires seasonally appropriate foods via offerings through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Once foods have received their USDA indicator, these foods become free for national emergency food access sites.

In the end, about 80% of the foods gathered for UUMC's Thanksgiving Bag distributions was free due to these USDA foods.

Obviously, this saves us a huge amount of money, but it also saves a lot of physical labor as these food products are moved from the Food Bank truck into UUMC only once.

This is one way Joyce Flynn and I have worked to streamline and make more efficient the Thanksgiving Bag distribution program.

Wegmans and Price Rite both made significant donations and price cuts to additional products that were needed. You all, the congregation, wrapped up our needs with the offerings you brought in.

What is particularly significant about UUMC's Thanksgiving Bag distribution is that there are very few like it in Syracuse.

Although folk can enjoy a hot, cooked meal at other Syracuse locations, it is very difficult

to gather an entire meal that can be created at home with one's family.

We easily had 20 volunteers on Tuesday to assist our guests in gathering their food, and another 20 congregation members helped out on Sunday, Nov. 24, to pack the bags.

The majority of the Hunt/Flynn family came in on Saturday, Nov. 23, to organize Pettengill and Fellowship Hall for these efforts.

As we look forward to next year, we will continue to tweak and adjust to ensure more folk can receive Thanksgiving Bags in the most efficient, generous way.

Change is presenting itself to our food pantry. It is likely that there will be more folk using our pantry next Thanksgiving.

More folk wanting to create a Thanksgiving meal with their family. We look forward to meeting this need and welcome all to UUMC.

*Galyn Murphy-Stanley,
Outreach Coordinator*

Thanks to Galyn and congregation for making bag project a success

On Nov. 26, the congregation of UUMC, with help from the Food Bank of CNY, Price Rite Supermarket, Wegmans and Walmart, provided 188 families in our neighborhood and surrounding community with the makings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

From 9 a.m. until the last bag was picked up at 12:15 p.m., it was a busy, chaotic and wonderfully upbeat atmosphere as the many volunteers did their best to help everything move smoothly.

We invited our neighbors and

guests to enjoy coffee, fresh fruit and snacks as they waited patiently in our Hospitality Center for their turn to pick up their bag & turkey.

Fresh produce was available for all — both vegetables and fruits — and was much appreciated.

Volunteers assisted guests back upstairs and outside with their bounty as wishes for a "Happy Thanksgiving!" were exchanged by many.

Tremendous thanks to our

incredible outreach coordinator, Galyn, for hustling so much free and low-cost food from the Food Bank, arranging for fresh produce through grocery rescue and the annual potato pickup and for all of her hard work in helping with planning, setup, cleanup, etc.

Thanks also to the congregation for their generous donations of time, food and monetary donations to help give 188 families a Happy Thanksgiving.

— Joyce Flynn

People & Prayers

THANK YOU

To the Congregation:
Thank you for the lovely altar flowers sent to me as I recover from my fall.

Thank you, also, to Margo Kotten for delivering them to my home.

Ginny Dewey

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- **Sherry Cullen:** Kathy Dewey, Heidi Wise, Billy and Family, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne, Patti Walker and family, Melanie, Annette and her family and mom, Grace; Marc Therrien; Maria and her mom
- **Erika:** Maria Storto, Ann Leduc, Barb and Bob Weaver
- **Barb and Bob:** Alayah Green, Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., John Quiggle, Frank Clish, Mary Ellen Will, Fay Kingery.
- **Sue:** My family, those with health issues

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

For Those in Military Service:

- **Chance Lawson, Austin Payne, Ian Enderle**

Sunday, November 10

- Rest in Peace, **Eddie Nunn.**
- Please pray for those struggling with addiction
- **Angela:** Ann and Tom Owens, health issues.
- **Willie:** For all that have an illness, I hope they recover.
- In remembrance of the **Rev. Thomas B. Shepherd**, first pastor of this church, see plaque in narthex for complete list through Hal Garman
- **Rhonda:** Prayers and blessings to UUMC pastor for such a warm welcoming greeting when I travel Oswego to Syra-

cuse for Sunday service

- For all who despair and need healing.
- My friend **Julia O. Giles**, who is having surgery tomorrow, and my friend **Joan**, who will be having surgery soon. Also that God send the church tenants for the rental space.
- **Connie Myers:** Those working to interrupt racism.
- **Sue:** My family, those with health issues.
- **Tom Owens, Sue Bates, Esther Pardue.**
- Prayers of love and healing for **Starke Donnally**. Prayers of joy and celebration of hearing the bell choir.
- For **Ann Price**, dealing with breast cancer a fourth time.
- Please pray for "**Birdie**" **Carmen**, who has pancreatic cancer.
- Please pray for healing and a return to health for our friend, **Tony Eppolito.**
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Bless the congregation, for they helped me, by aiding in things that mattered most!
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Prayers for healing within families
- **Chuck McBride:** Prayers for my girlfriend, **Linda**, who is undergoing surgery for breast cancer on Friday
- **Joyce Flynn:** Prayers for **Stephen Tedford and family**, as they cope with his recent brain cancer diagnosis

Sunday, November 17

- Will the school shootings ever end? Comfort the grieving, give them strength and courage.
- Let kindness prevail among

all people

- Pray for **Timmy G.**
- **Alice:** My sister **Anne.**
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Bless the farmworkers, who toil to feed my family.
- **Holly:** Please pray for **Thomaris Pease**, who underwent emergency surgery to replace a valve and repair his aorta on Tuesday.
- **Kathy:** To all who have to find God's light

Sunday, November 24

- Please bless my family and friends, keep all of them healthy and safe and full of peace and joy.
- **Joyce:** Prayers for mom **Kelli** and her 6-month-old daughter, **Harper**, as they recover from surgery: Kelli donated part of her liver to her daughter Harper.
- **Jeanne and Ted F-S:** 5-year-old **Lily**, who has viral encephalitis.
- **Vito and Janet:** **Frank Scalise**, Vito's brother-in-law, died last week.
- **Joeviet, Eva, Joel, Erick and Juliet:** For my family, the church, and **Nelson and Barbara**,
- Prophet Jesus: Bless the workers on these farms, for they nourish the hungry and those in need.
- I wish our members of the church pray peace for **DRC** because we all can work together.
- For healing within families.
- **Don Kotten:** For my cousin who has been diagnosed with cancer.

See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- **Peter Swords:** For the SU community and for safety, health and human rights for all. Let's pray for change in the narrative that causes hate crimes and oppression.
- **Willie:** A prayer that my sister-in-law is feeling better and all have a safe Thanksgiving.
- For positive family experiences during the holidays
- **Vito and Janet:** May our brother-in-law **Frank Scalise** rest in peace.

Sunday, December 1

- **Peter Gale:** Pray for **Timmy Case**
- Prophet Jesus: I plead to you for the sick and injured, to comfort and strengthen their physical healing.
- Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- For **Guy Williams** dealing with cancer.
- **Barbara Gilbraith:** For those traveling today – may they return home safely.
- For nations including the U.S., “never prepare for battle again.” Thanks for the season of joy, peace and hope.
- **Jeanne:** Continued prayers for my mom, **Marylou**, and Ted's little cousin **Lily**
- **Jim** asks that we pray for the people and family affected by

the shooting at Destiny. Prayers for peace, not fear, as we shape and live our lives.

- Greetings from **Marg McDivitt**
- Good morning, Family, as the holiday season grows near, be grateful for another day. Someone did not wake up this morning. God bless everyone! In joy, Happy Birthday to me for another year.
- Prayers for **Mike** as he awaits a transplant. Help him to remain strong and hopeful.
- For **Don Koten**, who fell and broke his hip.
- **Sharon Smith:** Prayers for all dealing with addiction. Safe travels for everyone. Those having surgery.
- For healing of relationships in and between family members.
- Praise to God for safe travels during two work trips and the great opportunities to engage in work. To visit family and reunite with good friends along the way. Thanks for a small, peaceful Thanksgiving with **Oliver** and **Vera** and a short road trip.

THANKS & PRAISE & JOYS

Sunday, December 1

- A joy! We got to visit my eldest cousin, who is 100 years young.

January birthdays

- 1 – David Lund, Samuel Weah, Pablo Weah, Joeviet Cooper
- 2 – Maria Pedro
- 4 – Autumn Kerr, Ken Craig
- 9 – Joseph Smythe
- 11 – Jim Samuel
- 20 – Ebony Wilson-Selmon
- 21 – Jacob Upcraft
- 22 – Diane Swords
- 23 – Eboni Marshall, Judith Bowers
- 24 – Seineh Weah
- 25 – Lara Chappell
- 26 – Fred Adams
- 27 – Colleen Magowan
- 30 – Eros Marshall, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay
- 31 – Neil Damron

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given by:

Jim and Deb Virgo in remembrance of Jim's parents, Dorothy and Roderick Virgo.

Nancy Hough in memory of her husband, W. Howard Hough, and her parents, Raymond and Margaret Laing.

Dr. Cynthia Steinem in memory of her parents, Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Judith Steinem.

Flowers were given to Holly Austin, Starke Donnally, Janet Thorna and Ginny Dewey.

Flowers were delivered by Nancy Hough and Margo Koten.

Potato Drop: Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Kellie Wood and Lyn Baker picked up 3 carloads of potatoes from the UNY Conference in Liverpool Nov. 16 for use in Thanksgiving bags and the Food Pantry.



Katz Concert: The Nov. 9 Harmony Katz event raised \$822 for Outreach. Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley thanks the congregation!

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2019 total pledges: \$203,474
 Total Pledges Received \$182,673
 Non-pledge contributions \$18,096
 Thursday Service \$327
 Trustees Bathroom Renovation Fund \$24,625
 Blessings in a Backpack \$3,500
 Thanksgiving Offering \$706

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$95,991
 Expenses paid \$88,891
 Current balance \$7,100



University United
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Feeding God's People: Body, Mind and Spirit

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Put
 Stamp
 Here

Return service requested

Dated material

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8

Sunday the 8th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship.

10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

11:45 a.m. Advent Potluck Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Fast Track II Disciple Bible Study

Monday the 9th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday the 11th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 12th

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Petten-gill Center

Friday the 13th

10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. Bible Study, Chappell Room

WEEK OF DECEMBER 15

Sunday the 15th

9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room

10:30 a.m. Worship. Special choral presentation

10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

6 p.m. Fast Track II Disciple Bible

Study

Monday the 16th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday the 17th

5 p.m. Governing Board

Wednesday the 18th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 19th

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Petten-gill Center

Friday the 20th

10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. Bible Study, Chappell Room

Saturday the 21st

10 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary

WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

Sunday the 22nd

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Tuesday the 24th—Christmas Eve

6 p.m. Christmas Pageant

Wednesday the 25th—Christmas

Church Office closed

Thursday the 26th

Church office closed

Friday the 27th

10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Clos-

et, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

WEEK OF DECEMBER 29

Sunday the 29th

9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room

10:30 a.m. Worship.

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 1st—New Year's

Day

Church Office Closed

Friday the 3rd

10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

WEEK OF JANUARY 5

Sunday the 5th

9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room

10:30 a.m. Worship.

10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

Wednesday the 8th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 9th

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Petten-gill Center

Friday the 10th

10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

Peale Entrance Window
Designed and Executed by
Holly and Seth Austin



Theodicy Jazz Collective
In Worship
November 3, 2019



Harmony Katz in Concert November 9, 2019



Preparing Bags for
East Genesee Regent Association
Christmas Party for Neighborhood
Children
November 15, 2019
(3 photos)







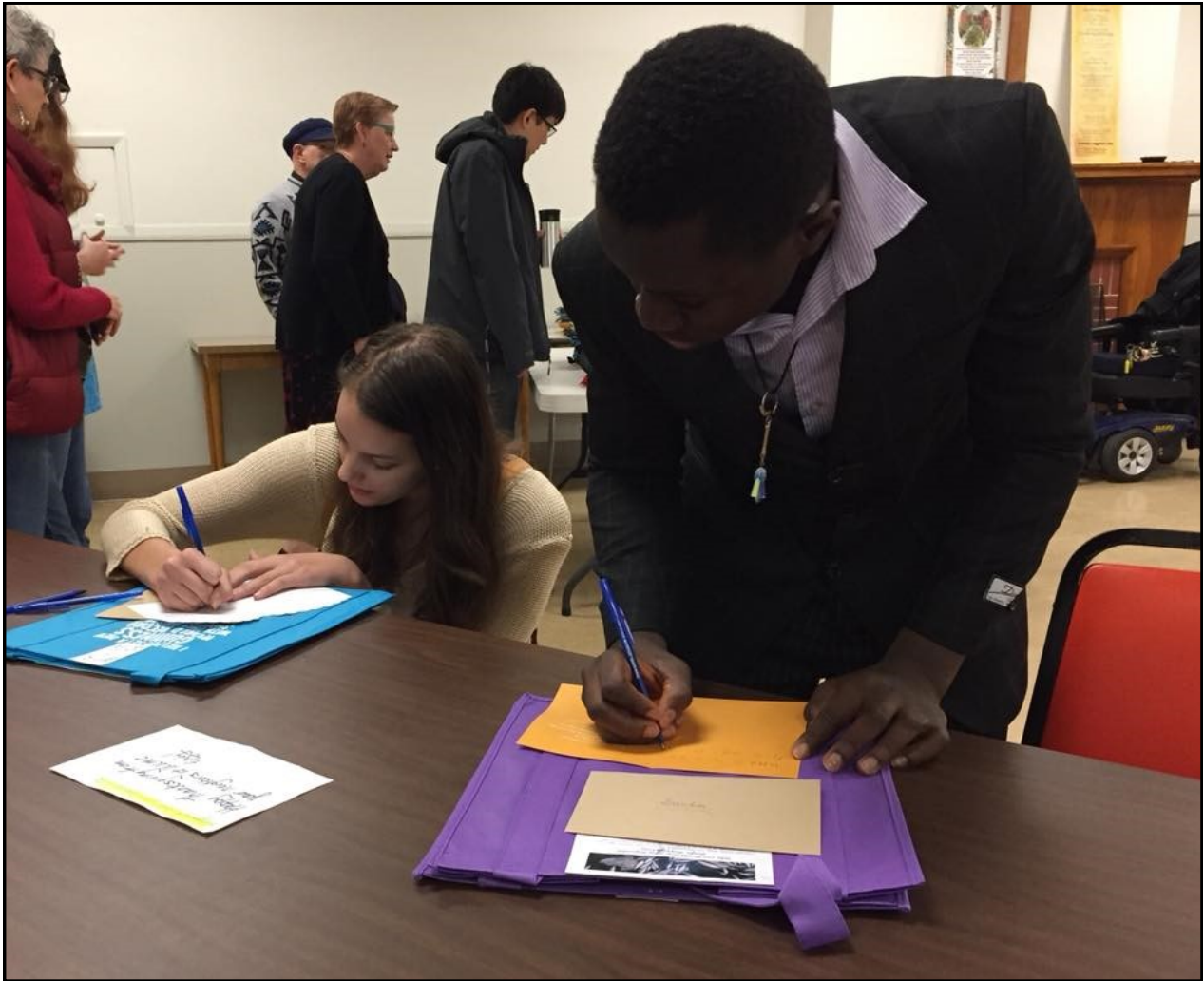
Filling Thanksgiving Bags

November 24, 2019

(10 photos)









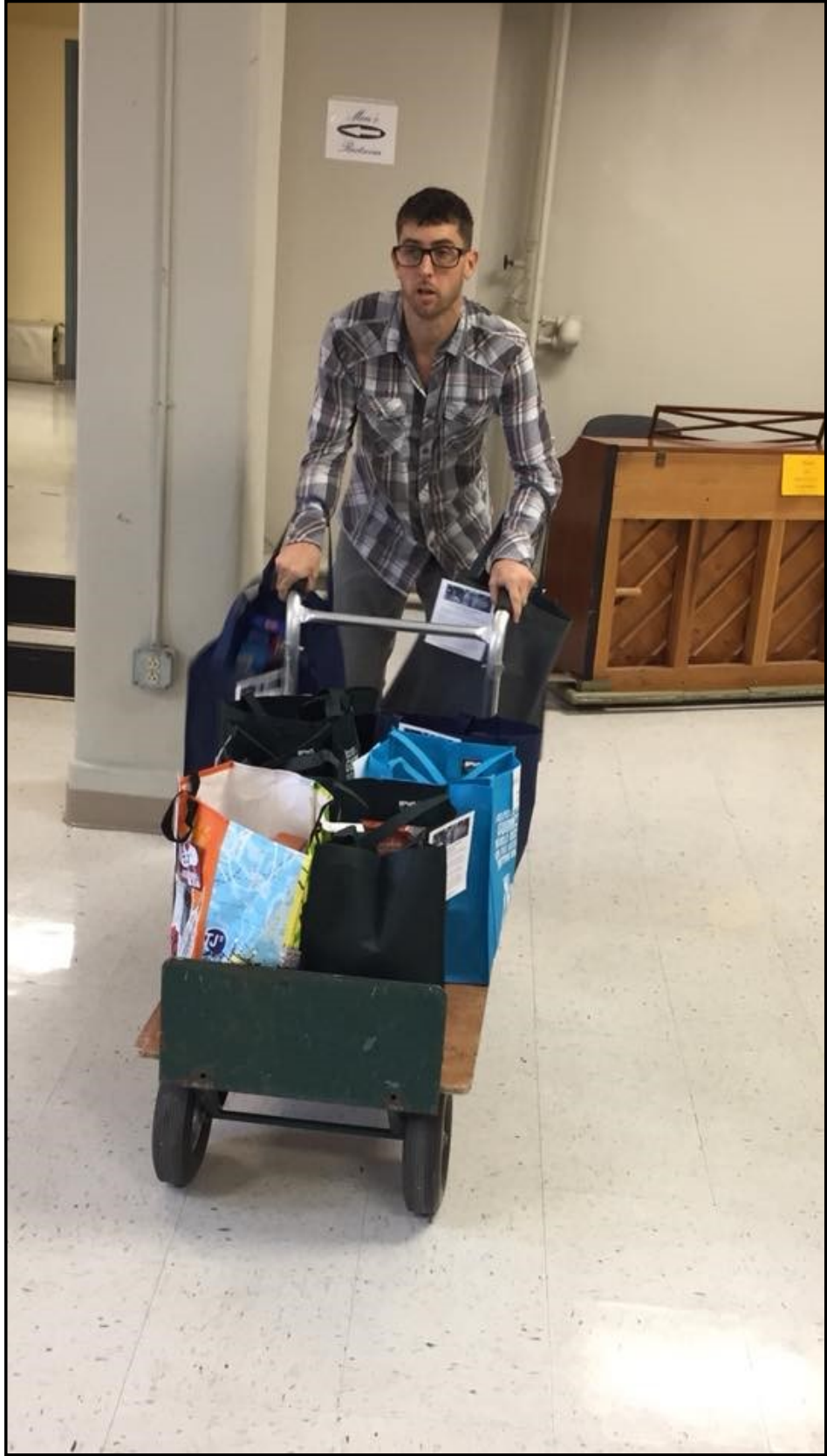












Thanksgiving Bag Distribution

November 26, 2019

(3 photos)







Communion Service

December 1, 2019

(4 photos)



Children collect toiletries donated by members for Food Pantry guests.





