

OUTREACH AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry provides a three-day food supplement for hungry individuals and families who find themselves in need, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religious affiliation or personal circumstance. Cupboard visitors are kept confidential in a computer database, and are allowed to pick up food once each month. *Open to any resident of Worcester County*

Mondays 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Fridays 10:00 am – noon

Non-perishable food donations are collected at Epworth in the fellowship hall. Item of the month for February: hearty canned soup.

Souper Bowl of Caring February 5

On Sunday February 5th, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 5th. All contributions support our Carty Cupboard. You may also bring non-perishable food for the pantry. Thank you.

Spaghetti Supper Saturday February 11, 4-6 p.m. hosted by Harmony Circle

Our free community spaghetti supper is held each month on the second Saturday, 4-6 p.m. Everyone is welcome and volunteers are needed to help distribute flyers, setup, prepare/cook, serve, host, and cleanup. Contact Ariel or Lily Dungca at 508-892-3018. *Groups are encouraged to adopt a month in 2012.* Elizabeth Circle will host March and Deborah Circle with the youth group will host April.

Hope for Housing now offers CVS Gift Cards

Epworth has partnered with Hope for Housing to raise money to eliminate family homelessness in our community. Every Sunday, we sell gift cards to area grocery stores at face value. The cards are worth their full value, but a percentage of every sale goes to Hope for Housing. So far, our church has purchased over \$109,000 worth of cards (and counting...). Now you can purchase gift cards for CVS at the same time. You can use the cards for any purchase at CVS including prescriptions. For the same price you would normally pay at the drugstore, you will also be helping to prevent someone from losing their home. Pick up your cards after worship any Sunday at the kitchen window.

Elm Park Community School "Walking Club"

Our neighborhood school is partnering with the Worcester Art Museum for a special learning opportunity. The school is seeking to create a "Walking Club" that would walk kids to the museum around 11:30 a.m. and back around 1:45, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All walkers will submit information for a background check before being approved (this takes time). Please contact the church office if you are available to walk.

Worcester Free Medical Program Now Offers TB Testing

The medical program started administering TB tests in January. The tests, as with all our medical services, are free to those without insurance. The medical program, in its 18th year, continues to serve the needs of our community each Monday from 6-8 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ruth Miller or call the church office.

Announcing EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

2011 brought several disasters to New England, especially in Vermont. The New England Conference currently has about 100 ERTs with UMCOR badges. We are in urgent need of several more ERTs to help survivors of future flood/winter storm damage in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. Emphasis will be put on Mud-out and debris removal tasks during this training.

Two Sessions of Early Response Training (the UMCOR Basic ERT course) are scheduled to take place in 2012. One session is offered from 8:30 am – 5 pm on January 07, 2012 at the Milford UMC, 327 N. River Rd., Milford, NH. An alternate date and location is February 4, 2012 at the Cornerstone UMC, 20 Jenkins Rd., Saco, ME. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of Basic ERT manual, ERT T-shirt, morning refreshments, and lunch. The Rev. John Blackadar and David Stackpole, UMCOR certified trainers, will conduct this UMCOR training. Reply to this email for registration information.