

**Dear members and friends of Normandy Park United Church of Christ – here is your Friday Food for Thought for October 9<sup>th</sup>. A separate invitation will be sent for Zoom Sunday Worship.**

**1) Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> is World Communion Sunday.** Please bring an artifact or souvenir from your family heritage or travels to share. You are also encouraged to try a new type of bread or beverage for Communion.

**2) Shine Curriculum Sunday School lesson:**

- Coloring page – from the UCC Be The Church Coloring Book. Go to our website: [www.npucc.org](http://www.npucc.org), click on Connect, then Sermons and Worship Resources in the drop-down menu.
- Shine at Home – Genesis 37: “Joseph, the Favored Child”
  - Talk about the mistakes that Joseph, the brothers, and their father Jacob made in this story. What could they have done differently?
  - Pray “help my family” prayers this week. Pray for each person who lives in your household.
  - Read Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson (available at the library) or watch a read-aloud version on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Var5X3uuYwE>.
  - Have you missed any opportunities for kindness this week?
  - Choose an act of kindness your family can do together.

**3) “Neighbors In Need” Special Offering**

UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses) OF ST. LOUIS, MO  
“Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all.”

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the “Baby Essentials” program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.

Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, “thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!”

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

[all children have the right to simply be children...](#)

Please join in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. Thank you!

#### **4) Note from Amy Johnson re: link to a panel discussion of Gender & Sexuality Justice**

Hello Beloveds,

Last week, I had the privilege of helping to moderate a panel of amazing women in the UCC for the Our Faith Our Vote campaign. The topic is Gender & Sexuality Justice, and the panel includes the following phenomenal folx: Rev Rhina Ramos, Rev Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Rev Loey Powell and Rev Kentina Washington Leapheart. Our host was Jessi Quinn in the UCC DC office.

This was one POWERFUL conversation, lifting up women of color and LGBTQ voices, immigration, and choice, in addition to how our faith enters into these conversations. Here's the link, which you are invited to share widely.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5v5OP6nz4I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5v5OP6nz4I&feature=emb_title)

Peace, Amy Johnson, UCC Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice

#### **5) Mary's Place SHINE Gala**

I want to share an opportunity for Normandy Park United Church of Christ to get involved with Mary's Place at our annual [SHINE Gala](#) which will be held virtually on Friday, October 23. There is no cost to participate in the event and it will be a great way to learn more about our mission as well as hearing directly from guests about their experiences.

The gala is bound to be a fun evening with a program featuring musical performances and contestant competition. During the week leading up to the gala, there will be an opportunity to bid on exclusive and unique experiences and items in the online auction.

The evening will be dedicated to building support for families experiencing homelessness with medically fragile children. There will be an opportunity to make gifts at this event if your congregation members feel inclined to do so.

We've also partnered with local restaurants to provide you with a prix-fixe meal to bring the SHINE Gala experience to your home. The first 250 food orders will receive a gift bag with two bottles of Tinte Cellars wine, a cocktail kit, and other fun items! [Click here to check out the full list of menu options.](#)

## **6) Highline School District Tech Levy Campaign**

We are kindly asking you to continue supporting our campaign either through donations or volunteering. With elections just around the corner, it is especially crucial we continue to reach out to voters, thus we are hosting two major text and phone banking sessions where we would be thrilled to have volunteers sign up for! Other volunteer opportunities include sign waving and distributing literature.

Please consider donating to our small campaign here: <https://bit.ly/Donate-YFH>

Volunteer sign-up sheet: <http://bit.ly/YFH-Volunteer>