

Week of October 29, 2023



From Woody: As I start off with a few thoughts today, I first want to thank everyone for reading these columns and listening to my sermons over so many years. I woke up this morning with questions. I visited with Frances Towne yesterday afternoon and she was telling me the ordeal of her son and his wife over the past few days. They live near Lewiston, Maine and had to shelter in place with the doors locked and the sound of helicopters overhead for a couple of days. It was the result of the horrific mass shooting, which left 18 dead and 13 wounded (3 in critical condition). My question is simply--why? Why would someone do such a thing and why do we permit the sale of military weapons? Such weapons used to be banned to civilians but now are not. I guess my aging brain remembers the old Watergate adage, "Follow the money." The only businesses to open during the lockdown were gun shops. Lines were out into the parking lots.

As we think about this heart breaking event, we watch the death of thousands of civilians in the current crisis in Gaza. I do not understand why violence is thought to be an answer. As a Christian, it seems like Jesus' approach to living was nonviolent and forgiving. I can guarantee that Jesus doesn't want civilians running around with weapons used in war and also that Jesus doesn't want wars. It is far past time that we find people to serve in governments who are interested in making peace and creating just societies. From a Christian perspective, and from a common sense perspective, we all owe it to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to say STOP to weapons, killing and hatred and YES to talking, listening and working together for a better world. God made us to be better than this. And lets say yes to funding mental health and no to our current status as number one in the world in gun ownership. Guns aren't the answer. Jesus says loving both our neighbors and our enemies is the answer. Thanks for reading my rant.



Welcome New Members: We will be welcoming four new members on Nov. 12. If you would like to join as well, please let Woody know.



Holiday Food Baskets: Thanksgiving Dinner Basket time is just around the corner. The Distributions will take place on **Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023** and we will be collecting donations on **Friday, Nov. 17 from 7:30-9:00 am** and **Saturday Nov. 18 from 7:30-8:30 am**. Sign up sheets are available online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4FA4A92DAAFB6-45482536-2023/34952514#/>

If you know of a local family that is struggling and needs a food basket, please reach out to Woody. Also, if you come across any banana boxes in your travels, we will be needing many to put together our baskets. We've been so blessed to be surrounded by such a generous and caring community and none of this could happen without you. Thank you so much!

Any questions, please reach out to Kim Borges (603)325-3091 or Colleen Jorczak (603)660-8966



**We are looking for volunteers in several areas. There are sign up sheets on the church bulletin board.
Or you can let Barbara Woodland know (603-487-3643):**



Greeters: We are looking for greeters for Sunday worship. The job includes lighting the candles, getting water for Woody on the pulpit, and most importantly welcoming people as they come in the front door. We have had a number of new people recently and we want them to feel welcome.



Sanctuary Flowers: Volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday. There is a signup list outside the office door at church, or you can email Ellen at andersel@njms.rutgers.edu It is a wonderful way to contribute to the service; one can give in memory of someone or some event as well.



Refreshments for Coffee Hour: We are looking for people to provide refreshments after church for the coffee hour. They can be homemade or bought and do not need to be elaborate. Again, this is a way to make people feel welcome.



Peace Quote: We, as a country, have to do something. That is absolutely disgusting. And it's sad. And it's sad that we sit here and watch this happen time after time after time after time and no one does anything about it. It's sad. I feel for the families. I don't know what else to say....*Mike Brown, Coach of the NBA Sacramento Kings.*