



We have been invited by Bethel Church to bring those in need in our neighborhood and church to their Christmas Shop. Both churches will participate in providing gifts and other items for families in need by:

- Donate **gifts for boys & girls**, ages infant – 17 yrs old (suggested price of \$20-25 for each gift) – please leave gifts unwrapped
- Donate **money for gifts** (write “Toy Store” on the memo line)
- Donate **miscellaneous items**: \$25 WinCo gift card, Liquid laundry soap (100-150 oz size), Wrapping paper/bows, Scotch tape
- Donate **items for Family Fun Night** boxes: DVD movies, Puzzles, Board games, Popcorn, Movie-size boxed candy, Hot chocolate packets, Sugar cookie mix and sprinkles, Muffin mix and disposable pan
- Donate **gently-used coats, new mittens or gloves, knit hats**
- Sign up to **volunteer on Dec. 16** at Bethel Church as either a guide for families or station helpers

**\*All donations need to be at West Side no later than Dec. 10.**

#### **What happens on Dec. 16 when parents come to shop at Bethel?**

Parents will be assigned a specific time and will be greeted by a Family Host volunteer who will escort them through various stations. Parents or caregivers of our Prison Fellowship children will move through the stations at their own pace. Stations will include toys, coats, mittens and hats, gift wrapping, gift cards, family fun night boxes, with breakfast/lunch provided. Each gift will cost 25¢ each, with families allowed to purchase 2-3 gifts per child (depending on total gifts donated).

*Why are we making this change in our Christmas giving? We want to shift the focus of our program from the givers to the receivers. It's honoring and empowering for a parent to tell a child on Christmas morning, "I purchased and wrapped these gifts for you!" Many of us have never been in a position where we couldn't afford gifts for our families. Helping a parent purchase gifts allows him/her to be the main giver and strengthens the parent-child relationship. They are a hero in their child's eyes.*

Christmas will soon be here and our Deacons will once again be teaming up with Marcus Whitman Elementary to provide Christmas baskets to families in our neighborhood and West Side families and friends.



This year, we are encouraging an interactive experience with those who will receive food baskets and those of you in the congregation:

- West Siders who are **in need of a food basket** or know of families that could use a food basket should provide the name(s) by Fri., **Dec. 8**, to either Perry Moore (509.440.0752) or the Church Office.
- **Donate non-perishable items** for the food baskets by **Dec. 15**: boxed Stuffing Mix, canned Sweet Potatoes, boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes, packets of Turkey Gravy Mix, canned Corn and Green Beans, boxes of Macaroni & Cheese, canned Cranberry Sauce, boxed Rice, canned Fruit, Biscuit or Muffin Mixes, and Cake Mixes & Frosting. Donation boxes are available in each narthex.
- Make a **special monetary donation for hams and turkeys** for the food baskets. Please make your check out to “West Side Church” with “Deacon’s Christmas” on the memo line. You may leave your donation in the offering baskets on Sunday mornings or bring it to the Church Office during the week. Please consider helping others in this way.
- Instead of pre-packing food baskets for **recipients**, they **will** be invited to **pack a box with West Siders** on Sat., **Dec. 16**, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, WS North Narthex. This will provide for more direct interaction between West Siders and those we are seeking to help during this holiday season. If you suggest a family to receive a food basket, you will be asked to help the family pack a basket at this time.
- West Siders who would like to **deliver a food basket to a shut-in** should also come on Sat., **Dec. 16**, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, WS North Narthex. You will pack a food basket for the shut-in and then deliver it.

The above process is somewhat of a change in the way we have traditionally done seasonal giving. We hope this approach will be a blessing to those in our neighborhood and community who need help during the holidays. If there is someone you know who, for whatever reason, will be unable to participate in preparing their basket on Dec. 16, the Deacons are always ready to make sure that their needs are also met. Please feel free to contact Perry Moore if you know someone who won't be able to help assemble their basket on Dec. 16.