



Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ

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October 5, 2009

Dear Members and Friends of Rock Spring,

Two little words can change the world. Eight letters, when put together in the right order and said at the perfect time, can bring a common moment into a sacred time between two people. Those two words? **Thank you.**

On a quick look through our Hebrew and Christian scriptures, we are called to give thanks 217 times. We are called to thank God for the goodness of the Earth and to thank each other for the blessings we have been in each other's lives. We are called to tell of the wonderful uses of the gifts God has given us to use, our time, talents, and treasures. We are called to be a thankful people, and a thanks-giving people, because of the community we share and the work that we do together in Christ's name.

As a people of faith at Rock Spring, we will soon enter into our Annual Giving Campaign, a four-week journey reflecting on God's blessings in our life, and our call to be thanks-givers. *This period of time will follow the Budget and Ministry Goals meeting on **October 18, 2009 at 12:15**, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. This is a congregational meeting, and all members and friends are encouraged to take part. Child care with a light snack will be provided.*

Even before we gather to consider the use of our gifts of treasure, time, and talents, let us be mindful and give thanks to every generation that has come before us. As we listen for the word of our still-speaking God in our time and place, let us remember those on whose thanks-giving we add our thanks-giving. We are inheritors of the faithful community of Rock Spring Congregational UCC that has given thanks through worship and music, learning and fellowship, mission, advocacy, and outreach in our community for nearly 100 years. And, giving thanks to God, we continue to do so, as we share in our future together.

Paul reminds us in his second letter to the church in Thessalonika:

*We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, ...
and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.*

2 Thessalonians 1.3

On the final Sunday of this year's campaign is **November 22, 2009**. This will be our Consecration Sunday, where we will join together in a time to say Thank you to God for the blessings in our life, and the joy in our church. Please, set aside the morning as a time to share your thanks-giving with your brothers and sisters at Rock Spring.

Thank you, all for being a blessed (and thanks-giving) community,

Rev. Douglas L. Griffin,
Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Janet L. Parker,
Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Henry E. Fairman,
Pastor for Children, Youth,
and Families

*A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Congregation
where God is Still Speaking,*

www.rockspringucc.org