Christmas Blessing Stockings and Gift Bags

The Ministries of Care team is collecting small items to fill Christmas Blessing Stockings and Gift Bags to spread Christmas cheer to those who can no longer attend church with us in person.

This year we want to fill the stockings and bags with **small non-perishable food items that are compact, shelf-stable, and require no refrigeration,** making them ideal for gifting. **All donations should be left in the foyer no later than Sunday, November 29.** Filled stockings and bag will be ready to be picked up for delivery on December 6 after the worship service.

Stockings should be 8 or 9 inches long and 12 inches in circumference (6 inches in diameter). If you would like to make a stocking, patterns are available in the church foyer beginning November 8. Cloth Christmas Gift Bags with drawstrings (9 inches long by 8 inches wide) are also welcome.

Some suggested single-serve items are listed below but feel free to add to the list. Items must fit into the stockings/bags.

Compact Protein & Ready-to-Eat Items

- **Canned tuna, salmon, or chicken:** Single-serve pouches or small 85g cans provide immediate protein without needing a stove.
- **Nut butter packets:** Single-serve squeeze packs of peanut, almond, or sunflower butter take up minimal space.
- **Jerky or meat sticks:** Beef, turkey, or plant-based jerky are lightweight and packed with protein.
- **Nuts and seeds:** Small packs of unsalted or lightly salted roasted nuts. almonds, cashews, pumpkin seeds, or trail mixes packaged in resealable containers.

Snacks & Grains

- **Mini snacks:** Small bags of popped rice or popcorn snacks are light and crunchy.
- **Granola or protein bars:** Individual energy, cereal, or nut bars fit easily into pockets or bags.
- **Crackers or whole-grain crispbreads:** Small snack-size sleeves of crackers pair well with nut butter or canned spreads.
- **Dried fruit:** Raisins, apricots, figs, cranberries, banana chips, or mango slices provide quick natural energy.
- **Snack Tins:** Single-serve or small-batch popcorn, caramel corn, or specialty shortbread and holiday cookies in easy-to-open tins.
- **Sweets:** Individually wrapped cookies, candy bars, mints or Christmas candies.
- **Preserves and Jellies:** Small-batch jams, marmalades, or honey paired with hard crackers or dry rusks.
- **Applesauce or fruit pouches:** Squeezable or small plastic cups of fruit require no utensils and add hydration and vitamins.

Drinks

- **Teas and Hot Chocolate:** Quality loose-leaf or bagged herbal, green, or decaf teas. Individual instant coffee packets or hot chocolate mixes. A gift card to a coffee shop.

May you feel blessed this Christmas as you bless others,
With thankful hearts,
Judie Coleman & Janet Remus