

ABOUT HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

This year our Lenten Alms will be donated to the Heifer International Organization. Heifer works in 25 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become self-reliant by providing livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training. Their mission is to end hunger and poverty, while caring for the Earth.

Hallmarks of their model are both "Teaching one to Fish" and "Passing on the Gift".

Teaching one to Fish – There is more to be gained in providing communities with the resources to put food on their own tables, than there is by us putting the food on their tables for them. By providing resources and educating people in how to use them, Heifer feeds people for a lifetime. In addition, there is joy and reward in work and productivity. It grants dignity, boosts morale and gives purpose.

Passing on the Gift – The passing on the gift approach fuels the sustainable community development philosophy. Each family that receives an animal gift passes on the first female offspring to another in need. This unique approach creates a ripple effect that transforms lives and communities, at a minimum doubling the impact of the original gift. It also turns people in need into people of giving. The evolution from gratitude to generosity is a powerful transformation for communities!

"...One must work, doing something useful with their own hands, so that they may have something to share with those in need."

- Ephesians 4:28

Join us as Good Samaritans as we Pass on our Gifts this Almsgiving season, turning the money we save from fasting into money that is used for those in need to feast. We are all called to participate in the cycle of positive change in the world!

'...Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' -Matthew 25:37-40

OUR LENTEN GOAL

One Gift Ark (\$5000) includes pairs of the following animals and more. It provides an entire community with such things as milk, eggs, honey, and wool to boost both nutrition and income. Help us provide this life-changing gift to a community in need around the world:

\$500 One Cow
(\$50 Share)

\$250 One Water Buffalo
(\$25 Share)

\$150 One Llama
(\$20 Share)

\$120 One Goat
(\$10 Share)

\$120 One Sheep
(\$10 Share)

\$120 One Pig
(Share \$10)

\$60 Trio of Rabbits
(Share \$10)

\$60 Tree Saplings
(Share \$10)

\$30 One Bee Hive

\$20 Flock of Chickens

CHRIST CHURCH

90 Kings Highway
Middletown, NJ 07748
732-671-2524
Office@ChristChurchMiddletown.org
ChristChurchMiddletown.org

CHRIST CHURCH

LENTEN ALMS PROJECT 2020:

**During Lent, join
Heifer International
to serve our neighbors in need.**



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

90 Kings Highway
Middletown NJ 07748
ChristChurchMiddletown.org

A LENTEN RULE OF LIFE

Lent is the season of the church year when we as Christians compare how we love God and others with the love of Christ. It is a time to reflect on how we live our lives in the light of our Baptismal Covenant. We practice “Christ-like love” through prayer, study, fasting and almsgiving.

This year the work of our almsgiving at Christ Church will be through the ministry of Heifer International’s Gift Ark, providing life-changing support and animals to people currently living in extreme poverty.

Prayer, study, fasting and almsgiving go together. Use Lent as a time to slow down from our busy lives and rediscover the power of silence, meditation, prayer and reflection. Set aside time every day during Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter to do the following:

- + **PRAY** for those who will receive the gift of an animal through our Ark at meals and at bedtime.
- + **STUDY** and then reflect on the Baptismal Covenant. Check the Christ Church web site to learn more about this project. Learn about the needs of the poor around the world.
- + **FASTING & FEASTING** – Fast on going to the movies, TV time, meals outside the home & buying things you don’t need. Feast instead on time to eat simply, take a walk, pray, read, study.
- + **ALMSGIVING** – Set aside the money you have saved through your fast to fill the Ark. Children can follow the Lenten calendar and save their money in the Heifer mite boxes.

GRACE AT MEALS

Loving God, we thank you for all the blessings of our life – that we have enough food and a secure home. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you by serving others. Bless this food and these alms that we set aside for those who have little, that they may have food, clothing and a safe place to live. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A BEDTIME PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for being with us throughout this past day. Please protect us, and those in need, while we sleep this night. Send us out again in the morning so that we may continue to serve you by serving those in need to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

I WILL, WITH GOD’S HELP

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

From the Baptismal Covenant, BCP p. 304

LET’S FILL THE ARK!

We will collect money weekly and give a status each week on our ark gift. Envelopes will be provided for your use. The children will also be tracking the ark gift by placing each animal we purchase into the ark on the bulletin board in the Undercroft.

Please make checks payable to Christ Church, with “Lenten Alms” on the memo line.