



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Moment for Mission: Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, September 7, 2025 by Deb Bruce

Good morning, it's a pleasure to be with you today.

I'm here to talk about the Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This year, we're celebrating our 50th year, although I've only been involved for the last 17. It's sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church and ably run by the delightful John and Cindy Korb.

And it really is a community effort. We use the kitchens at the Elks Club, Your Safe Haven (formerly The Lord's Table), First United Methodist Church, and St. Mary's. Fox Hospital cooks some of our turkeys for us.

Various groups and companies also help. Hannaford and Price Chopper give gift certificates. Fly Creek Cider Mill give cider. Brooks lends us food warmers. The high school band donates pies. Stewarts gives us milk. Chobani gives us yogurt. And the list goes on...

My job is to coordinate deliveries to the homebound. We deliver meals within a 15-mile radius. Last year, we served about 900 meals: around 600 were deliveries, almost 100 take-outs, and the rest joined us in person. We serve turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, apples or fruit salad, cranberry sauce, yogurt, pie, milk, coffee, and cider. No one goes hungry.

The meal is for everyone, not just people who can't afford it. It's for people on their own for the holiday, people who don't want to cook but still want turkey, and families who have made joining us a tradition. We hope you will join us.

Now, you may be asking, how can I help? First, thank you for making us the recipient of your Moment for Mission. But we can always use money. You can send a check to St. Mary's and put "Thanksgiving Dinner" on the memo line. You can volunteer, any time during the week before Thanksgiving for food prep or on the holiday for set-up, serving, or especially clean-up. Or you can volunteer to deliver. You can join us at the Elks Club to eat. And you can spread the word to anyone who might like to join us -- or someone who is homebound and needs a meal delivered.

Thank you for having me and for all the good work you do. *-Deb Bruce*

Peace & Global Witness (PCUSA special offering) is September's monthly mission emphasis.

Our gifts are divided three ways to share Christ's peace locally and worldwide:

25% will be used for peacemaking through Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner

25% will go to Presbytery to support peacemaking work in our region

50% of this offering supports Presbyterian peace efforts across the globe

Please mark all donations with *PGW (or Peace & Global Witness)* on the memo line.

Checks may be made payable to *First United Presbyterian*.