



Hi Clarkson Church family.

In May this year we had a food drive that gathered a significant amount of food for The Compass. The time you put into gathering food from your neighbours made a big difference in the lives of their clients. This was an important service for us as a church and something that we want to continue to do when needed to support people in need

On November 28th we want to start our Advent season by doing something similar. We know that many people are in need at Christmas time and so we want to collect all that we can to help them out through organizations like The Compass or Armagh House. We are hoping that, like in May, you will collect from your neighbours, friends and family and deliver it to the church on Sunday morning where we will have hot chocolate waiting for you as you drop it off.

The difference this time is that both **The Compass and Armagh House have asked us to help them empower their clients by providing gift cards for them to buy all they need for Christmas.** So we are going to have a Gift card drive on Sunday November 28th. Our hope is that in the week leading up you will gather gift cards to be able to deliver them to the church.

There are at least three ways you could do this:

1. Drop a note (which we will provide) outside your neighbour's door letting them know that you are collecting gift-cards and that they can drop them off at your house (or you can collect them on the 28th).
2. Plan a simple outdoor event in front of your house (or apartment building) where you will gather with some hot chocolate and perhaps a fire pit (let us know if you want to

borrow one). Invite all your neighbours to come, while letting them know you would love them to bring a gift card to donate.

3. Let your work colleagues or family or sports team know what you are doing and invite them to drop off a gift card to you for donation to people in need this Christmas.

However you want to participate, we can help you by printing off flyers or invitations that you can give to people around you. Our hope is that, like our food drive, you will not just donate but will collect from the people around you so that they can donate as well. We will be in touch next week to see how you would like to participate, but wanted to let you know what we are planning!

We are looking forward to working together as we bless people in need this Christmas. On behalf of our staff at Clarkson Community Church,
Jamie.