

THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

January 2010

Shopping Smart

Saving Tips from the Finance Committee

The internet is a wonderful tool for many things, including education, reference, keeping up with friends and for shopping. Even though the Christmas shopping season is behind us, it is never too late to practice safe online shopping. Here are some simple precautions you can take to protect yourself.

- If you aren't sure about a site, check it out on www.bbb.org, which is the Better Business Bureau's site that offers letter ratings from A to F to indicate how good or bad a web site is.
- Another good reference is the Federal Trade Commission's site www.ftc.gov, which provides many buyers' guides, lists of tips and links to helpful resources.
- Some indicators that a site might not be legitimate are:
 - There is no actual street address and/or phone number for the company, just an e-mail address.
 - There is no privacy policy describing how the site will use (and not abuse) your personal information.
 - The site does not have secure checkout. You can determine this by looking for either the 'https...' prefix or a lock symbol at the url address at the top of the page.
 - The URL for the site ends in something unusual like .cn, .ro, .ru or some other odd suffix, rather than .com, .net, .org, etc.
 - The site only accepts checks.
- Never pay by check or money order when you purchase online. If something does go wrong, the seller will already have your money and it may be difficult to get it back. Always use a credit card so that you have recourse with your credit card company if there is an unresolved problem with your purchase.
- Review a site's return policy before buying to make sure you know what the return window and document requirements are in order to get a refund. Also, you can sometimes return online purchases to a store, but not always. The return policy will have that information

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Special points of interest:

- Thank you from NAC for Christmas and Thanksgiving Baskets and gifts.

Northbridge Association of Churches

Many people gave from their hearts to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and Christmas gifts for Northbridge residents in need. Parishioners of the 12 churches provided 224 Thanksgiving food baskets. For Christmas, 242 food baskets were given out as well as gifts for 488 children. The NAC is grateful for those who were so generous and truly gave from the heart. Thank you.

Women, Work & Worship

Women, Work and Worship will meet for the first time in 2010 on Saturday, January 23 from 9am to noon. We will discuss A Holiday Affair. We will also discuss what we might be interested in pursuing this new year. So come and join us as we gather together for the first time since the first week in November 2009. Bring your ideas, a project to work on (or not) and snack on some homemade goodies. This date is our traditional fourth Saturday of the month meeting date. If you can't make the meeting and have an idea to share, please speak to Peg Codner or Bev Wheeler before the meeting. Hope to see you all in Faith Hall on the 23rd.

Ladies' Clothing Swap

Do you have clothes in your closet you no longer love? Did you get new things for Christmas and now you need to make room? Have you bought stuff that makes you wonder what you were thinking? Well, join us January 30, 2010 for the first annual BVUMC women's clothing swap! Here's how it works- you bring any gently used clothing (no rips or stains please) that you no longer want. Other folks bring their unwanted items and you can trade. We'll be accepting women's clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry and accessories (belts, scarves etc.) You can drop your items off at the church on Friday, January 29 between 6pm and 8pm or you can bring them Saturday morning. We will be accepting voluntary donations of non-perishable items for the food pantry as the price of admission for "shopping". Anything left at the end of the day will be donated to the Salvation Army thrift store in Linwood. This event will also be open to the public. Please join us from 10am to 2pm for what should be a really fun event (plus it'll help you clear clutter and you might just get a new outfit or two!) If anyone has a stand-up full-length mirror we could borrow please see Tina Beauchaine or Lee Ducharme. Please note you do not need to donate items to participate. The snow date for this event will be 2/13/10.