




Gift Jars
for Every Occasion

14 gift ideas, what to put in the basket, and printable tags

A FREE BONUS FROM THE AMISH PANTRY SHELF

Opal Hartigan

The Gift of a Ready Supper

In plain communities, food is how neighbors say what words cannot. A new baby, an illness, a loss, a move, a birthday: someone always arrives with a covered dish. A supper jar is that same kindness, made ready ahead of time. It sits on the shelf until the family is ready for it, and it asks nothing of the cook but water.

This little book gives you a gift for fourteen moments in life. For each one you will find three jars from *The Amish Pantry Shelf* that go well together (with the page numbers in the book), what to add to the basket, a simple way to dress the jar, and two short messages for the tag. At the end are printable tags for every occasion.

Five things every gift jar needs

1. **A full tag.** The recipe name, the date you filled it, how much water to add and the cooking steps. The quickest way: stick a **Talking Jar Label** (Bonus 2) on the jar. They scan it and their phone shows the steps and a timer.

2. **The can, if it needs one.** If the label says WATER + 1 CAN, tie the can to the jar or tuck both in a basket so the gift is complete.

3. **An allergy note.** Write "Contains milk, egg, wheat" or whatever applies, so the family can cook with confidence.

4. **A fresh oxygen absorber** and a tight lid, so the jar keeps as long as the recipe page says.

5. **A pretty top.** Cut a circle of fabric about 3 inches wider than the lid, set it over the closed lid and tie it with twine or ribbon.

Make a batch. Gift jars are easiest made five or ten at a time with the assembly-line method in Chapter 5 of the book. Keep a few dressed and ready in the cupboard, and you will always have a gift on hand when you hear the news.

Happy Birthday



A birthday jar is a party that keeps. Pair a cake jar with a cocoa jar and the birthday person gets a second celebration on a quiet evening, long after the candles are out.

THE JARS

Depression-Era Chocolate Snack Cake, page 92
WATER ONLY

Rich Hot Cocoa, page 95
WATER ONLY

Amish Whoopie Pies, page 86
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A wooden spoon, birthday candles and a few paper napkins.

DRESS THE JAR

Bright gingham fabric over the lid and a ribbon in their favorite color.

FOR THE TAG

"Another year, another reason to celebrate. Just add water and enjoy!"

"Wishing you a sweet year ahead. Cake is on me."

Welcome, Little One



New parents are tired and hungry, and every visitor brings something that must be eaten today. A supper jar waits on the shelf until the night they need it most.

THE JARS

Amish Chicken and Noodles, page 39
WATER + 1 CAN

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, page 57
WATER ONLY

Farmhouse Baked Oatmeal, page 15
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

The can of chicken, a small tin of tea and a note offering to wash the dishes.

DRESS THE JAR

Soft white muslin with a pale blue, pink or yellow ribbon.

FOR THE TAG

"Welcome to the world, little one. Supper is on us tonight."

"For the new family: one less thing to think about."

Get Well Soon



When someone is unwell, gentle food is a kindness. Soups that cook with nothing but water mean no shopping and no fuss.

THE JARS

Chicken and Rice Soup, page 30
WATER + 1 CAN

Creamy Potato Soup, page 25
WATER ONLY

Golden Turmeric Milk, page 98
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

Saltine crackers, a box of tissues and a warm mug.

DRESS THE JAR

A cheerful yellow fabric top and a sprig of dried lavender tucked under the twine.

FOR THE TAG

“Sending warm soup and warmer wishes. Feel better soon.”

“Rest up. Supper is ready when you are.”

With Sympathy



In plain communities, neighbors bring food when a family is grieving. A jar asks nothing of a tired heart: no recipe, no shopping, just water and a pot.

THE JARS

Yumasetti Noodle Bake, page 39
WATER ONLY

Chicken and Stuffing Bake, page 45
WATER + 1 CAN

Spiced Friendship Tea, page 97
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A pan of brownies or a dessert jar, and a handwritten card.

DRESS THE JAR

Plain natural linen with simple jute twine. Quiet and gentle.

FOR THE TAG

"Thinking of you and holding your family close."

"With love and sympathy. Let us take care of supper."

Welcome, Neighbor



Moving day leaves no time to cook and the kitchen boxes are never the first ones opened. A basket of jars says welcome in the most useful way.

THE JARS

Cheeseburger Macaroni, page 53
WATER ONLY

Golden Skillet Cornbread, page 74
WATER ONLY

Chewy Chocolate Chip Cookies, page 83
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A list of your favorite local places and your phone number.

DRESS THE JAR

Red and white check fabric, like a farmhouse tablecloth.

FOR THE TAG

"Welcome to the neighborhood! Supper is in the jar."

"So glad you are here. Knock any time."

Thank You, Teacher



Teachers grade papers late into the evening. A jar of cocoa or cookies is a thank-you they will actually use.

THE JARS

Peppermint Hot Cocoa, page 95
WATER ONLY

Snickerdoodles, page 84
WATER ONLY

Spiced Chai Latte Mix, page 96
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A nice mug and a short note from the student.

DRESS THE JAR

A ruler-pattern ribbon or bright red fabric, with an apple tag.

FOR THE TAG

"Thank you for helping me grow this year!"

"For a teacher who makes every day sweeter."

For Mom



Breakfast in bed, made by the family, with a jar she does not have to plan. Mother's Day, or any day she deserves a rest.

THE JARS

Cinnamon Streusel Coffee Cake, page 22
WATER ONLY

Instant Cappuccino Mix, page 96
WATER ONLY

Cranberry Orange Oatmeal, page 20
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A small bouquet of flowers and a card the children made.

DRESS THE JAR

A floral fabric top tied with a satin ribbon.

FOR THE TAG

"For the heart of our home. Today, we cook."

"Thank you for every supper. This one is on us."

For Dad



Hearty, smoky and filling. A chili or a stew jar suits a dad who loves a big bowl after a long day, or a weekend at the cabin.

THE JARS

Amish Country Chili, page 64
WATER + 1 CAN

Cheddar Garlic Drop Biscuits, page 73
WATER ONLY

Creamy Mocha Mix, page 97
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A can of beans for the chili and a bag of tortilla chips.

DRESS THE JAR

Flannel plaid fabric and a strip of leather or jute twine.

FOR THE TAG

"For the best dad. Chili is on the shelf whenever you want it."

"Happy Father's Day. You've earned a hearty supper."

For the Newlyweds



Start a young couple's pantry with a shelf of jars. On their first busy weeknights, a homemade supper is waiting.

THE JARS

Beef Stroganoff, page 44
WATER ONLY

Amish White Bread, page 75
WATER ONLY

Hot Fudge Pudding Cake, page 86
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A wooden spoon tied with ribbon and a copy of your own favorite family recipe.

DRESS THE JAR

Ivory lace or burlap with a white satin ribbon.

FOR THE TAG

"To a lifetime of suppers together. Congratulations!"

"Your first meal as a family, ready when you are."

College Care Package



Students live on noodle cups. A few real supper jars, a cocoa jar and the cans tucked alongside will feed them better than any dorm cafeteria.

THE JARS

Creamy Stovetop Macaroni and Cheese, page 58
WATER ONLY

Cheesy Taco Rice, page 54
WATER ONLY

Rich Hot Cocoa, page 95
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

The cans, a pot holder and a note with your phone number in big letters.

DRESS THE JAR

School colors on the fabric and ribbon.

FOR THE TAG

“Study hard, eat well. Just add water!”

“A taste of home for your new home.”

Be My Valentine



A chocolate jar and a cozy evening in. Sweeter than a box of candy, and it lasts far longer.

THE JARS

Fudgy Pantry Brownies, page 83
WATER ONLY

Rich Hot Cocoa, page 95
WATER ONLY

Creamy Chocolate Pudding, page 87
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

Two mugs or two spoons, and a handwritten love note.

DRESS THE JAR

Red fabric and a pink ribbon, with a paper heart for the tag.

FOR THE TAG

“You are the sweetest thing on my shelf.”

“Warm cocoa and all my love.”

Thanksgiving and Harvest



A harvest jar for a host, a neighbor or someone spending the holiday alone. Spiced, golden and comforting.

THE JARS

Harvest Spice Cake, page 91
WATER ONLY

Stovetop Herb Stuffing, page 58
WATER ONLY

Pumpkin Spice Bread, page 80
WATER + 1 CAN

ADD TO THE BASKET

The can of pumpkin for the bread and a small bag of pecans.

DRESS THE JAR

Rust, mustard or brown fabric with a sprig of wheat.

FOR THE TAG

"Grateful for you this season."

"Happy harvest from our kitchen to yours."

Christmas and Holidays



Jars make the coziest holiday gifts: easy to make in a batch, lovely under the tree and welcome on a snowy January night.

THE JARS

Peppermint Hot Cocoa, page 95
WATER ONLY

Soft Amish Sugar Cookies, page 85
WATER ONLY

Amish Chicken Noodle Soup, page 25
WATER + 1 CAN

ADD TO THE BASKET

A candy cane, a small whisk or a Christmas mug.

DRESS THE JAR

Red plaid or evergreen fabric with a sprig of pine.

FOR THE TAG

"Merry Christmas from our pantry to yours."

"Warm wishes for a cozy winter. Just add water."

Just Because



Sometimes there is no reason at all, just a friend who needs to know someone is thinking of them. A jar on the doorstep says more than a text message.

THE JARS

Loaded Baked Potato Soup, page 26
WATER ONLY

Flaky Buttermilk Biscuits, page 73
WATER ONLY

Old-Fashioned Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, page 84
WATER ONLY

ADD TO THE BASKET

A note that says you will call this week, and then do.

DRESS THE JAR

Any pretty scrap of fabric from your sewing basket.

FOR THE TAG

"Just because you matter."

"Thinking of you today, and every day."

Printable Gift Tags

Print at 100% on card stock, cut on the dotted lines and punch a hole for the ribbon.

Happy Birthday

"Another year, another reason to celebrate. Just add water and enjoy!"

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Welcome, Little One

"Welcome to the world, little one. Supper is on us tonight."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Get Well Soon

"Sending warm soup and warmer wishes. Feel better soon."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

With Sympathy

"Thinking of you and holding your family close."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Welcome, Neighbor

"Welcome to the neighborhood! Supper is in the jar."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Thank You, Teacher

"Thank you for helping me grow this year!"

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

For Mom

"For the heart of our home. Today, we cook."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

For Dad

"For the best dad. Chili is on the shelf whenever you want it."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Printable Gift Tags

Print at 100% on card stock, cut on the dotted lines and punch a hole for the ribbon.

For the Newlyweds

"To a lifetime of suppers together. Congratulations!"

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

College Care Package

"Study hard, eat well. Just add water!"

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Be My Valentine

"You are the sweetest thing on my shelf."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Thanksgiving and Harvest

"Grateful for you this season."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Christmas and Holidays

"Merry Christmas from our pantry to yours."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____

Just Because

"Just because you matter."

Jar: _____

Add water: _____ Filled: _____

☐ WATER ONLY ☐ WATER + 1 CAN

Contains: _____