

Perry Hall United Methodist Church

Food Bank –April, 2019



Winter is over! It was long, cold, and tough on many people! By the numbers, our food pantry was able to consistently help over 100 families each of the following months: January, February, March and April (which represent over 300 men, women, and children each of these months!). Although these families may come from all over our county they mostly came from much closer, the eastside of our county. The families we served came from: Essex, Middle River, Parkville, Rosedale and Perry Hall to name a few of the communities. They are our neighbors, they are our friends. It is because of you, that they find caring help.

The food pantry works entirely on donations and we do have many people/organizations to thank for their donations. People and groups such as: Fallston UMC and Camp Chapel UMC who both held several food drives for our pantry these past couple months. Also, we have had many individuals who donated gift cards or gave money to help offset the cost for when items started to run low and needed to be replenished (we do seem to go through quite a bit of cereal, peanut butter and jelly, lots canned chili or canned beef stew).

Did you know we have a food donation box at our local Giant (down by Perry Hall Square)? The box is right by the exit door and consistently attracts the kindness of so many. The box has been like a magnet for so many caring people that shop at Giant or just stop by to donate. Each week it has consistently provided at least a full grocery cart of wonderful food (and sometimes special or unique treats) for our food pantry. Did you know that you can now get Mayoketchup in a bottle?!!!



We also have great friends down at Weis Mkts – their generosity has come in the form of many, many, many wonderful baked goods – loaves upon loaves of bread, dozens of desserts, special treats, and all kinds of rolls/ muffins each and every week. Amazing how an apple pie, a box of cookies, a loaf of French bread, and bakery made corn bread can bring smiles on a weary face. These treats, these bread products are an extra special donation - and thank you to the

individuals who retrieve them and bring them to the pantry every week (your cars must smell really, really good!)

And lastly, but definitely not the least, we have our very own PHUMC to thank! We have about 20 dedicated volunteers who give up their time each month on Wednesdays, Fridays, or Saturdays to work at the food pantry- without them, the pantry would not be able to even open! They consistently show up to help: help bag groceries, give some encouraging conversation, restock shelves, and bring sunshine to the pantry. They are the faces to the pantry for our friends who seek some help. But PHUMC doesn't have just these remarkable people that make the pantry successful, it has so many more special people – it has you! – the individuals/families that bring food each week to fill the shopping cart on their way to church service. Your donations are wonderful! Especially, because each and every donation finds a home the following week – always appreciated, always needed.



So thank you – thank you our Fallston UMC and Camp Chapel UMC; to the unknowns that use the drop box at Giant, to Weis bakery, and to all of you for your help in the food pantry and for all of you that continue to fill the donation shopping cart each Sunday. You truly who the Lord was referring to:

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.



If you are wondering is there something the food pantry may be really low on and needs to be restocked – well yes!

We are in need almost always:

- *Cereal – it goes quickly
- * Canned chili or canned beef stew
- * Peanut butter and Jelly
- *Canned fruit - sliced peaches or sliced pears or applesauce
- * Canned potatoes, canned carrots, canned peas

- *Baked beans and other canned beans like refried beans, black beans, kidney beans
- *Rice
- Pasta (any style)
- Tuna fish (a special treat was the canned salmon)
- Side dish packages (like the Rice a Roni, or Knors pasta dishes)
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Canned soups – chicken noodle, vegetable beef, cream of chicken, mushroom and tomato.
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Gift cards



A star * means we are low in stock right now for these items.

Also: Our families also need and request personal items like tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, clothing detergent, personal hygiene items, depends, and diapers.

REMINDER:

The spring food distribution will be on Saturday, May 18th – we always can use help preparing the produce for distribution or helping with the distribution. Please contact Peggy Whiting if you are able to help!

So thank you, thank you, thank you - for your kindness, your generosity, your time, your care – you truly make a difference in so many lives!

