

## Food Pantry Report

Congregational Meeting November 2024

Submitted by C.B. Morrison

The demand for food continues to grow as food prices increase. For the last 6 months we have given food to 319 households that include 354 adults, 137 seniors and 139 children for a total of 630 people. That is an increase of 32.5% from the previous 6 months.

We are fortunate to be able to purchase 95% of our food from Second Harvest which have prices much less than the grocery stores but even the Second Harvest food prices have increased 32% from 6 months ago. They are unable to give free holiday foods, as they did last year, due to the increased prices. They sometimes have free items like snacks, drinks, fruit etc. which I order and share both with A Place at The Table and Knoxville Rainbow Library.

In November we will receive the yearly distribution of FEMA food from Community Action Committee. This food should last us about 6 weeks. There are 6 items of food that we are responsible for providing to meet the FEMA guidelines. These guidelines state that we have to supply the same amount of food for a single person household as we do for a family of 4. Once all of the FEMA food has been distributed, we will go back to the reduce amount of food which we currently supply to all of the households. We have always adhered to the strict guidelines that FEMA requires when using their donated food.

Robert is taking church messages and emails for food on Mondays. Shelly checks messages on the other days, and if Shelly is unavailable, I check messages. Cathy and I both receive direct calls or text messages to our cell phones. We have lately ben suppling food to several group homes in Knoxville.

Monthly reports are sent to Second Harvest and quarterly reports are sent to CAC. Cathy, the co-leader of the pantry, does the day-to-day activities with the help of other team members, by making baskets, doing inventory, picking up food from Second Harvest, purchasing needed food from Food City that is not available at Second Harvest and making most of the deliveries. I extend a special thanks to Cathy for all her hard work and true devotion to this ministry.

Many thanks to the pantry team of Cathy, Gina, Joyce, Linda, Sandy and Shelly for all of their hard work.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact C.B.