



The Meeting's response to hunger this Christmas

Sharing the loaves and fishes,
You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry, O Lord.
Sharing yourself in the bread and wine,
You called all to the table, O Lord.
Give me the hunger to be a part of the feeding
And the healing of this world . . .**

Friends, though we may not be breaking bread with each other this holiday, we have many opportunities to share our blessings and bounty with people in need. Ministry & Counsel, in consultation with more Friends, is inviting us to do whatever we can to share our loaves and fishes. **Here is what is being planned and we are asking for your support.**

What the CSMM community can do:

1) Provide monetary support of state and local food pantries

M&C will be asking the Meeting at meeting for business on Dec 13 to approve a direct contribution to statewide as well as local food banks.

We are recommending that CSMM support the Community Food Bank of NJ which supplies a network of food banks throughout the state. If possible, we would also like to support two local food pantries run by members of our Interfaith Community: the United Methodist Church in Chatham and the First Baptist Church of Madison.

2) Make donations of food + household staples to two local food pantries

Your donations, delivered to the meetinghouse before Monday, Dec. 21, will be collected that day and delivered to local food pantries. Anyone who stops by the meetinghouse on Saturday or Sunday Dec 19, 20th can help themselves to a bag

of chocolate truffles and a plate of home-baked Christmas cookies from Suzanne Mandala (while supplies last). The building remains closed, so if you need the code to get in to drop off your donation, please text 908-447-5389 before you go to the meetinghouse.

Food donations should be non-perishable. Household staples are also accepted and can be such items as toilet paper, cleaning items, diapers, toiletries and personal care items for all ages.

This is a GREAT opportunity for our families. Consider making this a family project, bringing to this holiday a focus on the less fortunate. Encourage our youngsters to be part of the entire process -- choosing the donated items, vocalizing their thoughts, packing, delivering. And take pictures along the way!

3) Volunteer!

Volunteer opportunities are available at the Chatham Food Bank (behind the United Methodist Church 460 Main Street, Chatham)

Volunteers are always needed on Wednesday from 2 pm to 4 pm. to help with food distribution. Cars line up all the way down Main Street, so helping hands are much appreciated. All you need to do is show up, rain or shine -- or snow!

. . . Nourish me with your Grace,
So I may work with joy to serve your children.
Open my eyes and my heart
To recognize those in poverty
And increase my awareness
Of the structures and systems
That need to be changed
So we may all break bread together.
In your name we pray for the end of hunger.**

- <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-the-end-of-hunger1>