CHARLESTON AREA CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

"for I was hungry and You gave me food; I was thirsty and You gave me drink; I was a stranger and You took me in." Matthew 25:35

Hours M-W-F 1:30-4:00

United Way

A United Way Partner Agency

SEPTEMBER 2026 PANTRY NEWS

How is it September already? The weather men are talking that with no rain in the foreseeable forecast the farmers may be able to start harvest early this year!

Thankfully the area gardeners are harvesting their produce, and generously donating to the pantry. Fresh tomatoes, squash, peppers and cucumbers are so good this time of year. The guest to the pantry are always appreciative for fresh produce.

The pantry has been busy all summer, with 30-40+ guest coming on distribution days for food assistance. With the Lord's blessing, the pantry has been able to keep up with the many request for food. Thankfully the Eastern Illinois Foodbank donations have been quite large the past few months. This has been helpful with the pantry budget.

Raffle tickets are still available for our fall fundraiser. Contact the pantry for purchase, or head to the Farmer's Market on the Charleston square on Saturday mornings through September. The raffle winners will be drawn and announced on October 15th at the Pizza at the Pantry event for a Chamber After Hour event. The winners do not need to be present to win.

It can finally be announced that the new tenant for the empty office space in the pantry building is Hicks Gas. This will be their new business office. Welcome!

THANKS

The pantry received generous monetary donations from Starbucks, and the Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste program. These businesses already donate food to the pantry, so the extra generosity was a pleasant surprise, and is very much appreciated!

The pantry will receive a grant through the United Way drive again this year. We are grateful we are supported by this generous organization, and their many donors.

Donations were made in memory of Carroll Petersen and Wendi Smith. May God comfort the people who loved these individuals.

AUGUST 2026 NUMBERS

Families: 443 Individuals: 1,305
Meals: 11,745
Donated food in pounds: EIF: 11,935
USDA: 9,765 Ruler: 1,934 WalMart: 7,158

FUN FOOD FACTS PEPPERS

- Peppers come in many varieties and colors. The most common is bell peppers which are usually green, which is actually in the unripened state.
- As peppers ripen they turn yellow, orange, and red, however some varieties remain green.
- Some varieties can be purple, white, brown, and striped.
- Peppers are native to Mexico, and Central and South America.
- Wilbur Scoville, a pharmacist, developed the Scoville Heat Unit Scale to measure the heat level of peppers. Bell peppers are rated zero, Jalapenos are 500,000. The scale goes to 16 million, with none rated that hot!