

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



DECEMBER 2025

PANTRY NEWS

The number of guest the pantry serves continues to be a large number. Some days Todd has had to call in extra volunteers to help with the number being served. The volunteers are working really hard, long hours as guest are served.

Sadly, the amount of money the pantry is spending on food is also a large number. This past month the bill for food from the Easter Illinois Foodbank was over \$11,000.00. Todd also spends a few thousand dollars at Ruler Foods to supplement this purchase, as well as the donations the pantry receives from Ruler and Walmart.

The capital campaign will be wrapping up the end of December. This campaign has been a huge success! The Charleston community has been exceedingly generous.

On December 1st, Todd signed the check to purchase the building from Habitat For Humanity! Any remaining funds from the capital campaign will be placed in a special account for maintenance on the building now that the pantry is the owner.

The pantry will use part of the building for more storage and working space. The future plans are to hopefully rent the space that Habitat occupied.

The pantry board and volunteers wish Habitat for Humanity all the best as they settle into the new building they obtained in Mattoon.

THANKS

The pantry has been so blessed by the donations to the capital campaign, and say thank you to all donors. Once the campaign ends there will be list of donors compiled for an official thank you.

The regular donations given on a monthly basis by area churches and individuals are always greatly appreciated.

NOVEMBER 2025 NUMBERS

Households: 427 Individuals: 1,271

Meals: 11,439

Donated food in pounds:

USDA: 4,976 EIF: 33

WalMart: 6,864 Ruler Foods: 2,738

FUN FOOD FACTS

As the Christmas season approaches there are many questions folks have, such as what to I buy for my kids this year, where will we be traveling for get togethers, what will I make for the office party, and that one burning question..."What exactly in the world is *figgy* pudding?!"

Figgy pudding is an English steamed cake, made with bread crumbs, flour, suet, eggs, candied citrus peel, dried fruit, spices and brandy. However, there are no figs in it! Raisins, which are used is another word for figs in some countries.

The cake is usually "crowned" with sprigs of holly which represent the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head at His crucifixion. The cake is often lit since the brandy will ignite, the fire represents the passion of Christ.

Now when you hear "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" you will finally know what figgy pudding is!

*MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2026!*

