



Moment for Mission – Souper Bowl of Sharing

Supporting The Salvation Army Food Pantry, Oneonta, NY

A Moment for Mission on Sunday, February 22, 2026

Compiled by Pastor Walton-Leavitt, First UPC, Oneonta, NY

Our Souper Bowl of Caring collection this month will go to The Salvation Army Food Pantry to benefit our local population of those in need of help. Our contributions - along with donations from others -- make a big difference for local non-profits.

Envoy Margie Aitken serves The Salvation Army Church in Oneonta as their pastor and administrator. She reports that their relationship with neighbors continues to improve because of funding flexibility received from the community that enabled them to significantly remodel their outdated food pantry.

They replaced a chest freezer with an upright commercial “reach-in” 2-door stainless steel freezer. Selecting food is easier and it avoids any potential food contamination should a product leak. It also makes stocking and inventorying much easier on their limited staff.

The pantry is now a more modern client-choice food pantry. They also received a glass-door fridge to give the shopping experience more dignity and respect that their neighbors deserve. The improved cooling equipment makes it possible to provide more perishable foods which promote nutritious foods and healthy eating.

The needs continue to grow – as do creative programming and working with partners like Cornell Cooperative Extension, local agricultural programs that provide fresh produce and dairy products, and those helping families to understand the concept of food as medicine.

There are some pantry users less willing to try perishable produce that is new to them. However, when Margie and her team work with kids and talk about cooking and nutrition – some families are willing to try healthier food.

Soup Pots are in the sanctuary during the month of February to receive your donation -- OR you can drop it off at the church office – OR mail it to church marked *Souper Bowl*.

Please make checks payable to *FUPC* with *Souper Bowl* on memo line.

When we all give a little – it adds up to a lot...

First United Presbyterian (the “Red Door” Church)

Worship at 10:00 am on Sundays at 381 Main Street, Oneonta

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