

Your Generosity Keep CPC's Mission Alive!

Your generosity enables CPC to serve hungry people in Austin. We continue to provide sack lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays while practicing the CDC's guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Pastor Carolina coordinates food donations from members, friends, neighboring churches, and other nonprofits. God's abundance shows up in our kitchen on a daily basis, and that bounty is delivered to people who live on the streets downtown or at Camp Abbott.

We realize that many of you are struggling financially due to the pandemic. Please know you are in our prayers, and we are here for you. Other folks have increased their contributions to help. These gifts are such a blessing to CPC and to people in need. Thank you! If you able, please consider giving more to help CPC fulfill its mission during this difficult time. Together, we can shine Christ's light on a weary world. As we think of our CPC community – this congregation of all of us who touch each other through the spiritual bond we share through CPC – how are those of us without homes getting food? As the pandemic took hold in Austin, many organizations and services simply stopped offering food or services. Central Presbyterian kept going in its mission to serve food to folks who are homeless. Maybe you won't believe how much we have done -- it is remarkable and blessed work by so many CPC hands, along with hands from other groups. Let me tell you about it.

During this fiercely contagious pandemic, we could not serve our neighbors without homes as we had been -- we could not open fellowship hall to Central Mission on Thursday mornings, with a full breakfast, prayer and Bible study; toiletries, social services, bus passes, and clothes. We also could not host the Tuesday Women's Lunch group. Instead, a small but quickly growing number of volunteers jumped in to make bag lunches that are available at the church's front gate on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Volunteers make bag lunches in multiples of 10 to our guidelines.

Two church members act as coordinators to sign up volunteers for specific dates. Sandwich makers then drive to the alley behind the church kitchen to deliver the lunches from the trunks of their cars. Other volunteers who observe social-distancing rules take the lunches from car trunks into the kitchen and refrigerate them for distribution the next day. Literally Hundreds of sandwiches made by loving hands every day Monday through Friday.

But wait, there is SO MUCH MORE. Other groups have contacted our church during the pandemic to help provide food using our facilities for refrigeration and organization. These groups include:

The Austin Chinese-American Network,
University United Methodist Church,
St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank
Windsor Park Neighborhood,
EMS Explorers
Central Christian Church

The numbers of meals prepared by these groups have steadily grown until NOW, in addition to the 40 bag lunches distributed on Tuesdays and the 80 bag lunches distributed on Thursdays at the church, we now supply up to 450 meals a day.

Then comes the hard part. Special thanks and blessings are due to Carolina Treviño and Emily Grace Clark who distribute these meals across downtown and various encampments. May God bless them and all of our volunteers who serve selflessly and generously.

Here is our heartfelt request to you – three ways you can help through time or treasure:

- **Bag lunch makers:** If you want to help make bag lunches for this effort, contact either Ellen Perry or Frances Cerbins. Their contact information is in the church directory.
- **Kitchen volunteers:** We are seeking a few more volunteers who can help receive the bag lunches and other food intake tasks. These food-intake volunteers wear masks and gloves at all times. If you think you would like to help with receiving food that will go to our homeless neighbors, contact Pastor Carolina at the church office, office@cpcastin.org, or 512-472-2445. Please keep in mind - there is a certain level of risk involved to those who volunteer. Therefore, following pandemic guidelines, our CPC volunteers cannot be over 65; they cannot have autoimmune disorders; and they cannot be at risk for certain other medical reasons.
- **Contribute to the work:** Third - there is an additional very important way you can help us in this work. Please consider donating to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund, which now helps to fuel all of CPC's work with our neighbors who are homeless -- Central Mission, Tuesday Women's Lunch group, and Cold Weather Shelter. CPC now offers an easy way for you to become a **Neighbors helping Neighbors Sustaining Member**, by donating \$30 a month to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund. Of course, you're also welcome to **make a one-time donation** of any amount to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund. Whenever you donate, simply write "Neighbors " on the memo line of your check or designate "Neighbors" when you donate through PayPal. Or click on Neighbors when you text to give. You can also continue to give directly to Central Mission or Women's Lunch to if you prefer.

Thank you with all our hearts, and God's blessing on all who are joined – giving and receiving – this food. Amen.