



Operating a Food Pantry in COVID-19 Times . . .

“Local food pantries are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing increased numbers of those in need and a need for more volunteers. The Christian Cupboard (whose distribution center is located at 34 Church Street in Girard), has experienced a 35% increase in the number of families served. That number is expected to continue to grow.”

Excerpt West County News Journal.

The Christian Cupboard’s distribution days are the first and third Thursdays of every month between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Throughout the crisis the Christian Cupboard has continued to provide food to our friends and neighbors in need in West County. Through March and April the food pantry took steps to mitigate exposure by changing procedures to ensure social distance and limit person to person contact. Patrons no longer enter the building; check-in and registration are handled verbally and outdoors. Volunteers pre-packaged food by family size and the groceries were taken to client’s cars by volunteers. Our volunteers also use face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers throughout the process.

As Second Harvest transitioned into the Disaster Household Distribution Program, the Christian Cupboard was no longer able to purchase food to fill our own grocery bags. Therefore, patrons now receive pre-packaged food boxes with about 25 lbs of non-perishable items along with additional perishable items pre-determined by Second Harvest. Because of this the Christian Cupboard is currently not accepting donations of individual food items as we do not have the space or means to process those items and distribute them to patrons.

Because we now receive perishable items the day of our distribution, the Christian Cupboard opted to make its distribution from a satellite location at Girard Alliance Church at 229 Rice Avenue in Girard. This also enabled us to offer an entirely drive-up service. The public was notified via a notice on the food pantry door, signs at the Girard Alliance Church entrances and our facebook page. As the response to the pandemic continues to evolve, we will do our best to continue to keep the community informed of potential changes. Any questions can be directed to 774-3985 M-F 9am-noon.

We want to thank not only our volunteers, but also the patrons of the Christian Cupboard for readily adapting to the ever-evolving changes made necessary by the pandemic. Thank you for following all directives to ensure safe traffic flow and social distance while respectfully interacting with our neighbors and friends in the communities of Girard & Lake City.

The Christian Cupboard’s Mission:

**We are called to serve those in need with love
as Jesus asks us, not out of pity, but with respect for their human
dignity, not just feeding their bodies but providing for their
overall well-being—
body, soul, and spirit.**

How Can You Help?

Financial Donations are greatly appreciated. (Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Girard – marked Christian Cupboard in memo line.) Mail to P O Box 106, Girard, PA 16417. We are not able to accept donations of non-perishable food items at this time.

Volunteering your time and/or talent also helps. Distribution days are the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Volunteers are scheduled to unload the truck and set-up before the distribution and to work 2 hr shifts to distribute food on those days. You may call 774-3985 9am - Noon M-F for more info and to give your contact info for the volunteer call list.

The Letter Carrier’s Food Drive
will be re-scheduled
later in 2020.



The Next Distribution is May 21, 2020 at Girard Alliance Church, 229 Rice Avenue Girard PA 1-5pm

Distributions are scheduled the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the Month from 1-5pm. Location TBA for June.

July begins a new registration period. All dates are pending and may be affected by state mandated restrictions and emergency food programs due to the pandemic. Please look for notices posted at 34 Church Street, on Facebook, through the media or office voicemail M-F 9am-noon, 774-3985.



Own a box truck? The Christian Cupboard uses a box truck to pick up food boxes for distribution. Call the office if you would be willing to make a pick-up.

In Need or Know Someone Who Is?

If you know anyone in Girard or Lake City who needs help, even if this need is only temporary, or if you’ve lost your job and/or your income has been severely reduced, the Christian Cupboard is here to help. Those in need should come to the pantry distribution location (TBA) between 1:00 and 5:00 on the first or third Thursday of the month. No one should go hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. With school closures, job disruptions, and health risks, many will turn to food pantries for much-needed support. People who never needed help before need it now. We are here to help for those with temporary needs for as long as they need assistance. Please bring your photo ID and proof of address (such as a current utility bill) to register. The TEFAP form is waived at this time.