Dear friends,

It is an atrocity.

What?

That November SNAP benefits (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program) will be cut in half, according to a report on Monday (https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/03/us/politics/snap-food-stamps-trump.html).
I suppose some might consider this to be good news, as the initial threat was that SNAP benefits would go away entirely on November 1. That a reduction in funding *at all* was considered, and has now been enacted, is abhorrent and condemnable.

We live in a nation which stands on the recognition of the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people. But what is life without food that allows you to survive or nutrition that allows you to thrive?

This cut in benefits means that millions of people – including children, people with disabilities, veterans, and working families - will be without the help they need to buy food for themselves and their families. Currently 1.4 million people in NC alone depend on this benefit. These are the people who are at great risk for physical and mental health crises. These are our elders. These are our children.

The Bible is crystal clear about what we are to do when we see someone who is hungry. *We are to feed them.*

From Isaiah 58:9b-10:

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

From Matthew 25:34-35:

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

The call is clear.
What then, are we to do, in the face of such an atrocity?

1) **If you need food,** call or text 211 to connect with a local specialist who can help you find food assistance and other support services in your area, go to www.findhelp.org to search for food programs, or call or come by our Walk-in Ministry program on Monday or Thursday morning (9 a.m. to noon)
2) **If you have extra resources** to share, please consider donating to one of the following organizations:
   • Emanuel Food Pantry, https://www.emanuelfoodpantry.org/donate.html
   • Central and Eastern NC Food Bank, https://secure.foodbankcenc.org/site/Donation2
   • Urban Ministries of Durham, https://umdurham.org/
   • Catholic Charities
3) **If you have extra time,** volunteer at **Emanuel Food Pantry** on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday during the day. They currently serve over 800 families each week! https://www.emanuelfoodpantry.org/volunteer.html), or volunteer at **Urban Ministries of Durham** (FPC has 7-9 a.m. and 9:30-10:30 shifts available - call or text Jancy Johnstone at 919-824-6489 for information about November shifts.
4) **Call or write our NC representatives -** https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative and let them know that they must act to restore (or increase!) SNAP benefits ASAP.

There are things we can do, friends. There are ways we can act to make a difference. Let us continue to follow Jesus in caring for those in deepest need.

Onward we go. God's banner of justice, equity, peace, and love lead the way.

With love,
Mindy

P.S. For more about how churches are addressing this need, check out this article from *The Presbyterian Outlook*: https://pres-outlook.org/2025/10/churches-prepare-for-hunger-surge-as-snap-benefits-face-historic-cutoff/ or ask FPC members Margaret and Miguel Rubiera!