CHAMBLEE FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From: George Hall
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024
To: Missions Committee
Subject: Thanksgiving Food Drive 2024

As we prepared to load up and deliver the food we all donated and collected, I counted (30) boxes of groceries with accompanying bags, each containing (25) pieces of fresh produce for local, Huntley Hills Elementary School families.

In addition, I counted over (70) boxes of bulk groceries and fresh produce, to be divided between Malachi's Storehouse and Suther's Food Pantry. Both of these organizations conveyed independently that their usual food bank partners have extremely limited quantities of food available at the moment, putting their respective Thanksgiving programs at risk. Because of this, our provisions are even more appreciated than they would have been any other year.

I'll call this "manna from Heaven."

While organizing our several packing & sorting events with church and community groups, I found myself concerned there would be either too many volunteers for the work, or too much work for the volunteers. Either scenario makes for a frustrated volunteer force. But, for each event, the volunteers worked hard and seemed satisfied with what had been accomplished. The flow of work and volume of workers ebbed and flowed in sync with the tasks at hand.

I'll call this "loaves and fishes."

Though exact counts are to be determined, it seems the quantity and variety of donated items were in line with what was received last year. (Many thanks to our "Missions Intern" Travis Gillispie who is creating a spreadsheet of data for future reference!) Finally, by partnering with local resources for coordinated distribution, our ancillary expenses were cut in half. We streamlined but still served bountifully.

I call this "sharing the yoke."

I am grateful.

George