

Old South Responds to SNAP Uncertainty With Free Weekly Meals

Farmington, Maine--As the federal government shutdown extends into November and endangers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The First Congregational Church, UCC of Farmington ("Old South") is responding by offering free weekly meals in November.

Stan Wheeler, program director of the church's free Community Lunch program, explains that the church is rapidly expanding its popular meal event, usually served once per month, to four meals in November. "We are sorry that the food insecurity problems in our area are being worsened by the suspension of SNAP benefits, and we will do our best to help our neighbors," Wheeler explains.

The Community Lunch ministry has provided free nutritious meals to the Farmington community since its inception in 2003 (with the exception of a short suspension during the COVID pandemic). Every meal is balanced with a protein, a starch and a green vegetable, as well as dessert. This effort has been made possible through the generous efforts of many volunteers from Old South and the wonderful support of Calzolaio Pasta Co. in Wilton.

Wheeler notes that each week will feature a different menu. On Saturday, November 8, the meal will include Stan's "Regionally Famous" American Chop Suey with garlic bread and a dessert. Chicken stew with a biscuit will be served on November 15. To celebrate Thanksgiving, diners will enjoy a traditional holiday spread on November 22, with roast turkey, butternut squash, stuffing, gravy, peas, cranberry sauce, and pie. Then, on November 29 the church will serve up macaroni and cheese with ham, with dessert.

All meals are served at noon. Diners are warmly encouraged to enjoy their meals sit-down style in the church's Gathering Room; a take-out option is also available.

Old South First Congregational church, UCC, is located at 235 Main Street in Farmington.

For more information, please call the church office at 207-778-0424 or visit its website at farmingtonucc.org.