



The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

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November 2, 2022

Dear Neighbor,

We are thankful to live alongside you in this great community. Neighbors, local groups, government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses like yours work together for the common good. Together we strive to improve the quality of life of the whole community.

At James and Andrew, one of the ways we strive to improve the quality of our neighbors' lives is by addressing food insecurity. We offer two free community meals each week, Second Helpings on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., and **Sunday Soup & Sandwiches on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.** Deerfield Academy co-sponsors Second Helpings with us by covering the financial costs of the program and providing over half of the volunteers. Sunday Soup and Sandwiches is sponsored and run by James and Andrew, and receives some volunteer support from other faith communities.

We find ourselves in a season where we must seek your business's help. The need for meals has been growing exponentially. As sponsors, we have been impacted by the same increasing cost of food that has impacted those who come to receive meals, and it is increasingly challenging to continue this program on our own.

Sunday Soup and Sandwiches was born in April 2020 in response to the rise in food insecurity at the onset of the pandemic. There was no longer a free Sunday meal in Greenfield, and so James and Andrew stepped up to provide one. Volunteers began making large batches of delicious, homemade soup, and preparing sandwiches (deli or PB & J). These are served with chips, peanut butter crackers or nutigrain bar, granola bar, 2 hershey kisses and a drink of their choice. Folks are welcome to take as many meals as they want/need and we will never turn anyone away or say we ran out of food. **In 2020, we served an average of 40 weekly meals; in 2021, we served an average of 66 weekly meals; and in 2022, we are now serving as many as 150 meals on any given Sunday.** In total we have served over **4,000 meals** since this program began.

We are asking local community businesses to help James and Andrew continue this program in 2023 by sponsoring meals. **Each meal costs \$2.50. If you would consider sponsoring 2, 5, or even 10 meals for the duration of 2023, it would ensure we can continue this program.**

Our Mission: We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality, and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

If you are not in a position to financially support this program, please consider encouraging your employees and friends to volunteer. Volunteers gather from 10-1:30 p.m. on Sundays to prepare and serve meals. We currently have a total of 32 volunteers, and are looking for more volunteers to ensure the sustainability of this program. Each week we schedule 7 volunteers.

If you would be willing to sponsor meals please send your donations to SsJA, 8 Church St, Greenfield, MA 01301 with ‘SSS’ or ‘Soup & Sandwiches’ in the memo line. **100% of your donation will go towards the cost of food and supplies.** On our website you can learn more about our program or make a one time or recurring gift: www.saintsjamesandandrew.org. To volunteer, please contact Erica Burns at the email below.

We believe in this community, and know that together we can improve the quality of our neighbors’ lives by addressing the hunger so many are facing. Thank you for all the ways your business makes this community a better place.

Yours,

Rev. Heather J. Blais,
Rector
heather.blais@gmail.com

Erica Burns
Sunday Soup & Sandwiches Coordinator
sundaysoupsandwiches@gmail.com

Wondering how many meals you might sponsor?

2 Meals =	\$260 annually
5 Meals =	\$650 annually
10 Meals =	\$1,300 annually
15 Meals =	\$1,950 annually
20 Meals =	\$2,600 annually
25 Meals =	\$3,250 annually
50 Meals =	\$6,500 annually