

**Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. — Proverbs 14:31, NIV**

September is Hunger Awareness Month. Educating ourselves about hunger in America is a great way to begin to remedy the problem. It is real. Feeding America reports that “people in all 3,143 counties and in all congressional districts in the 50 states and DC experience food insecurity. Food insecurity ranges from 3% in Bowman County, North Dakota to 46% in Presidio County, Texas.”

We need to educate ourselves on the causes of food insecurity and work for systemic change while we feed those in need. Discriminatory practices, racial stereotypes and prejudice, poverty, unemployment and language barriers, are all obstacles to food security. The coronavirus pandemic devastated minority groups, already marginalized, who work as essential frontline workers and, in the leisure, and hospitality industries.

Harmful federal policies have led to high rates of poverty and food insecurities in Native Communities. Living long distances from supermarkets, with limited transportation options, makes it difficult for folks living in many communities to benefit from federal food programs.

Children, Seniors and those living with disabilities are impacted as well. Hunger is real and can't be fixed by telling a hungry person “to get a job”.

Congregations throughout our Presbytery are generous in their support of food assistance programs through donations and volunteerism. May all of us learn more about the facts and causes, and then educate our neighbors. May we all work for systemic change through advocacy, activism and by voting in every election.

Hunger Action Day is September 23, learn more about the fight to end hunger by reviewing the latest information from “Feeding America’s Report: Map the Food Gap.”

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202022%20Report.pdf>

**“Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.”**

**— Mother Teresa**



