

Freeport Mennonite Church

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In an effort to stamp out hunger in our community and worldwide, we are delighted to inform you that Freeport Mennonite Church (FMC) will host the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canner again this year for the 20223-2024 canning season. As communities and nations continue to deal with issues locally and globally, we “can” come together and make positive, lasting relationships while helping feed those in need.

We collect donations for the meat canning project throughout the year, especially during October and November. The Canning Ministry at Freeport Mennonite is an above-budget project done entirely through donations like yours. The more contributions we receive, the more people we can help. We are excited to announce that we have been given four days to can and possibly one more day this year, depending on volunteer and funding support.

As MCC’s 77th year of meat canning begins, FMC has partnered with MCC for the 71st year. We couldn’t be more excited to invite others to join us in this unique mission project. We are happy to announce that the canner will have four “canner guys” working this year, including our very own Caleb Moss from Freeport. Tim Bastian is also returning this year as our canning coordinator. MCC is always looking for “canner guys” who can make a two-year commitment, so if you know of someone who might be interested in learning more, let us know. We would be happy to connect them with MCC.

This project is open to anyone and everyone: businesses, school groups, churches, civic organizations, families, and individuals. If you or anyone you know would like to help stamp out hunger, we will be canning December 11th-14th (Monday-Thursday) at Freeport Mennonite Church, 3416 E Brick School Rd., Freeport, IL 61032. If you don’t have time to help, consider giving your financial support by mailing a check to Freeport Mennonite Church at the above address with Meat Canning in the memo. If you are interested in seeing what happens at “meat canning” or would like to see the portable canner, feel free to contact Tim Bastian (Meat Canning Coordinator) at 815-821-2469, Chad and Janet Weber (Assistant Canning Coordinators) at 815-291-6382 or 815-541-9397, or David Graybill at 815-238-7208 and Toby Penner at 815-821-1403 (Assistant Canning Coordinators). Also, if you are interested in someone coming to talk about the canning project at your business, school group, church, or civic organization, don’t hesitate to contact one of the above individuals.

Freeport Mennonite Church produced 23,535 cans from 34,823 pounds of chicken last year. Ten percent of the cans stayed in our community, distributed at Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC), Rockford RescueMission, Joseph’s Pantry in Freeport, Lancaster Food Pantry of Lancaster, Wisconsin, and Faith Community Church of Davis. The remaining ninety percent was sent to MCC to use in their missions worldwide.

The MCC Canning event isn’t just a week-long effort, and it isn’t just about canning meat. Women in Mission and Service (WMS) collected comforters, baby blankets, Dignity Kits, School Kits, Hygiene Kits, and Sewing Kits throughout the year. These items were also sent to MCC for distribution worldwide.

This project continues to be needed all around the world. We encourage you to be a part of this year’s canning project. Some canning shifts fill up fast, so you will want to call and sign up for a shift early before they are filled. Call 815-291-6382 to sign up. Again, this year, we have online sign-up/scheduling for shifts at: <https://www.freeportmennonite.com/canning/2023-canning-sign-up>