WAYS CHURCH MEMBERS CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY

by Jane Dreher, FCC Deacon Board and Missions Committee

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact many Redlands area residents, including homeless and low-income people, who are in need of assistance. As our church's representative on the Redlands Area Interfaith Council (RAIC), Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition (RCRC), Redlands Family Service Association, and other charitable organizations, I am informed about numerous programs that help people in our community during this crisis. Here are a few ways our congregation members can help:

FREE LUNCHES at Pop-Up Community Food Stations

RCRC/RAIC are coordinating free sack lunches for homeless and very low-income people at three locations, between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, 7-days a week. About 150 people come by daily for these sack lunches. If you would like to help, please drop off bagged lunches at any of the locations by 10:45 am on any day(s) you can help.

The lunch bag should include: 2 sandwiches, 2 pieces of fruit, 2 snacks (chips, granola bars, carrots, etc.), 2 desserts, bottled water and possibly some toilet paper. Staple the bag at the top. Basically, you are providing lunch AND dinner. Three Pop-Up locations are:

- Rear parking lot of the Methodist Church
- Parking lot by the closed Banned Skateboard Shop, corner of Orange and Stuart (across from Corner Bakery)
- K-Mart parking lot, corner of Redlands Blvd. and Alabama

FOOD PANTRY at Family Service Association

More food is needed for Family Service's Food Pantry located at 612 Lawton Street. Drop off canned or boxed non-perishable food Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers will box up food and deliver it to families, the Boys & Girls Club, and Redlands Community Senior Center where 120 food boxes are distributed to seniors every week. Food needs include: **Instant Oatmeal – Pancake Mix – Cereal – Peanut Butter – Jelly – Instant Potatoes – Spaghetti Sauce – Spaghetti Noodles – Tuna – Canned Chicken – Fruit – Dried soup such as Top Ramen and Cup of Noodle – Rice – Beans**

SEW FACE MASKS

If you like to sew, this project is for you. Jean Arnott of RAIC is mobilizing women of faith to sew washable medical mask covers for healthcare professionals. (These go on OVER the regular masks and can be washed and reused.) She is working directly with LLUMC and Redlands Community Hospital to create what they have specifically asked for. If you are interested in helping, contact Jean at jeanarnott@gmail.com. She will get you a simple pattern. If you need fabric, she can provide you some as well.

CALL CHURCH MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Call and check on your fellow church members and friends to see if they are ok, if they need anything, or if they'd just like to chat. Personal visits are not possible at this time, but a warm and friendly phone call can lift someone's spirit.

Please email me and let me know if you were able to do any of these things above. I would like to keep a list and write a future story in Tidings about our church involvement. Email janedreher@aol.com or call me at 909.534.4062. Thanks.