

First Parish Unitarian Universalist – Canton Canton Food Pantry

History

First Parish has a special and historical relationship with the Canton Food Pantry. In 1983, First Parish Minister Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson helped to found the Canton Help Line, which included valuable services such as the Canton Food Pantry. Every year in February, we honor that relationship and ask parishioners to help us replenish the shelves in the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry meets a critical need in the Canton community, particularly during these difficult times. It is open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and currently serves more than 280 households, providing them with groceries and basic toiletry items. Most people are regular visitors to the Pantry, although new families continue to come requesting help.

Client needs

Please remember that the Canton Food Pantry needs your help. Clients are allowed to use our pantry every two weeks. What they receive from us does not come close to being enough food for more than a few days, and we never have every category. So our pantry simply augments a family's food budget. Sometimes we come across a special situation and try to provide a client with a grocery shopping card, usually \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, depending on what we have. If you would like to help us with this, just buy a grocery card (all denominations are welcome) at a local supermarket and drop it off at the pantry on Mondays, or anytime at Pratt Realtors. Or you may mail to Canton Food Pantry, c/o Canton Area Helpline, PO Box 202, Canton, MA 02021.

If you are looking for suggestions, here's a list of items the food pantry always needs:

Checks written to Canton Food Pantry	Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Coffee (reg./decaf.), instant or canned	Juice
Toilet paper	Dry pasta (spaghetti, elbow, egg noodles)
Canned meat/meal (chili, ham, hash, etc.)	Oil (any kind)
Meal Makers (Hamburger Helper, etc.)	Bar soap
Canned pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, etc.)	Toothpaste
Peanut butter	Shampoo
Cereal	Laundry detergent
Spaghetti sauce	Feminine products (tampons, sanitary napkins)
Canned fruit	Diapers (all sizes)
Canned vegetables	Reusable (cloth) bags
Evaporated milk	\$10 gift card(s) from Shaws, Stop & Shop, or Roche Brothers

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Drop-off locations

Items may be dropped off at the following locations:

- **Canton Food Pantry**, 960R Washington St., (rear of Rodman Building) most Mondays 7 - 9 AM, and every Tues. 8:30 - 9 AM
- **Canton Co-operative Bank**, 671 Washington St., Mon. - Fri., 9 AM - 5 PM
- **Bank of Canton**, 557 Washington St., Mon. - Fri., 9 AM - 5 PM
- **Canton Public Library**, 786 Washington St., Mon. 1 - 9 PM, Tues. - Thurs., 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM
- **Pratt Realtors**, 1475 Washington St., Daily 7 AM - 5 PM

Financial contributions and gift cards

The Pantry also relies on financial contributions. The money is used for discount purchases of food and household items. Any money donations are welcome, whether or not you are able to bring food/household items. Checks written to Canton Food Pantry with FPUU-Canton in the memo line can be placed in the Offertory or mailed to the church office. You can also purchase \$10 gift cards from Shaws, Stop & Shop or Roche Brothers, put them in an envelope and place them in the Offertory or mail them to the church office.

Online...

For more information:

- Canton Food Pantry: <http://www.town.canton.ma.us/193/Canton-Food-Pantry>
- Canton Area Helpline: <http://www.town.canton.ma.us/194/Canton-Area-Helpline>
- Food Pantry blog: <http://cantonfoodpantry.blogspot.com/>

Thanks!

Thanks to all of you for helping our larger community. We want to continue our tradition of generosity, so please join us in making this year's collections for the Canton Food Pantry our best ever!