

The aroma of home cooked soup and love and comfort will soon pour forth from Our Father's Kitchen. Beginning Saturday, **April 2nd** (from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm), and every Saturday thereafter, a hearty meal will be served to everyone who comes. Our Father's Kitchen is located at The First United Methodist Church in Greensboro, Ga. All are welcome!!

The churches involved include:

First Presbyterian (First Saturday)

First United Methodist (Second Saturday)

Redeemer Episcopal (Third Saturday)

Historic Springfield Baptist (Fourth Saturday)

Second Harvest is also a partner.

Back in 2019, a seed was planted at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. What better way is there to visit and get to know your neighbors than sharing a meal with them? The seed grew and blossomed, and the first Soup and Sandwich Saturday lunch was held on Aug. 24. With Elizabeth Hassell at the helm, the tables were dressed in checkered tablecloths, silverware, and napkins. Each guest was served at the table. Made and/or provided by volunteers, the menu included soup, sandwiches, fresh fruit, chips, pickles, beverages and last, but not least, a choice of homemade **dessert**. What they soon found out

**was** that the perfection they had strived for was totally wiped out by the perfection of their guests. They came with smiles; they came with stories; they came with friendship. On that first day, Lucy Ogletree was reminded of a quote from her Mama. ““The doors swing in, and the doors swing out, and some come in and some go out”, but never without leaving something of themselves behind and I hope taking something of our life with them.” At first, there were just a few guests, and eventually the list grew, with peak attendance being over 90 on some occasions. The scene changed with the Pandemic, but Soup and Sandwich Saturday continues as usual, never missing one lunch. Sit down lunches became “take out”. No longer were there tables all dressed up for everyone to eat inside. As Lucy says, “The scene in the parking lot was a testament to the fact that it does not matter what one faces in life, the good Lord brings us through it. Our love for each other will always be there to hold us up”.

In 2021, the First Presbyterian and the First United Methodist Church began serving lunch once a month. Not long after, with all churches working with the same goal in mind, discussions began about how to combine their efforts and serve from one common location. The Historic Springfield Baptist Church and Second Harvest

signed up to participate and ***Our Father's Kitchen*** was soon born. With the large kitchen and central location, it will be located at The First United Methodist Church.

What began as one church opening its doors to invite neighbors to share a meal has now become four churches and Second Harvest working together with the same common purpose: “welcoming and feeding our neighbors”. To undertake this project requires the generous support of all involved. There is no local, county, or federal government support funding. Everything done is funded by caring and concerned people who generously provide money, time, and talent. Once again, the residents of the Greensboro Community will come together and respond to and support the increasing needs of those they live with. The rewards will be great. Smiling guests, full tummies and hearts filled with love will bring a beautiful feeling of joy, a testament to all who participate. Sharing this kitchen and this meal together can only help to strengthen our community.