



# Justice and Creation Fellowship

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# Community Need

Our community in Indianapolis (and specifically Irvington) are in a hunger crisis:

- 1 in 9 Hoosiers are hungry
- 24% of Marion county residents are receiving some kind of food assistance

Feeding America



Our table of fresh produce at our iCan food pantry

# Ministry Response



For this initiative, we decided to enhance/further develop our community garden. We have 4 small planters that are growing tomatoes, herbs and peppers; and 2 larger boxes with cucumbers and carrots! We were also able to plant a strip of native flowers along our sidewalk to encourage pollinators!

Additionally, we have a 3 section compost container on our property.

Towards the end of this, we were able to till and sow a 30'x30' plot to grow even more!

I was blessed to already have a large team dedicated to these efforts, especially a few who were well versed in gardening. This initiative really brought out the best in our community, especially in the realm of mutual aid. Many people feel shame or guilt in asking for help, especially when we're raised with the mentality of having to do things alone; so I was grateful to be able to offer help without it being asked.

This was one of the best experiences I've ever gotten to be a part of. I have always wanted to have a career where I can truly help people, and this was a great example of how I can do just that. It was so exciting to finally see our bigger plot come together with our soil delivery and woodchip pile, even though it was sweltering and we had to move 90 square feet of dirt with just shovels!



# Collaborators and Partners

My group was made up of 16 people including myself; Elliot, Rob, Jess, Kate, Elise Tim, Amy Josh, Lane, Darlene, Jude, Brady, Karen, Pastor Adam, and Pastor Melody. Most of these people are directly from our congregation, but some are also just community members who are invested in helping others. We also worked with iCan, Second Harvest, and Second Helpings in Indianapolis.





Our food went directly to the iCan food pantry that operates out of our church. We have many people from the local community come in every Thursday to pick up fresh fruits and veggies, canned goods, boxed goods, hygiene supplies, narcans, and more. This fellowship allowed me to see the effects of real, hands on work in my community. I have never had an opportunity to be so directly involved with my community, and it was such a blessing. This also brought to light the need that our community faces, which many people had not thought of.



# Impact and Ripples



I also saw the presence of God in the moments when we were knuckles deep in the dirt, planting, and harvesting. It was an amazing way to connect with the Earth, the community we were building, and the people we were helping.



I saw the presence of God throughout this fellowship in the people around me. Having such an amazing group of collaborators has made me feel so grateful and welcomed into my congregation.



I saw God in the smallest of beings during this fellowship. We had so many bugs and pollinators sharing this space with us! Although I may have screamed if one landed on me, I still appreciate all they do for us and the connection we have with them.

# Beloved Community



“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:7-10

Being a part of the act of cultivation and the act of creation can only bring us closer to God. This fellowship has sent ripples throughout our community in Indianapolis and throughout the Green Chalice community! This was an investment in the wellbeing of our future, and we are going to continue to expand and cultivate this resource. We are in the process of applying for grants and other investments in order to sustain this for future generations.