

**Mission:**

*To provide a nutritious daily meal to the hungry of the area, as well as to provide a safe and sheltered place for social gathering.*



The Benton Harbor  
**Soup Kitchen**

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Volunteers from St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor preparing a Saturday lunch. We served 99 that day. The top Photo shows the lunch assembly line. The bottom photo shows all the members of both churches who contributed that day. This story continues on page 2.





## Cover Story Continued

St. Augustine's has a food pantry on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 4:30-6:30 pm.

The church spearheaded a project with Habitat and Andrews University architecture students to build a Tiny House for a homeless person or small family.

<https://www.staugustinebh.com/tiny-house>

The church has started fundraising for a second Tiny House.

Members grow produce in their church garden for the food pantry and has an immigrant assistance fund.

First Presbyterian (Benton Harbor) is currently searching for a new pastor. (Continued next column.)

First Presbyterian has been donating food to Eau Claire Schools for weekend lunches.

The regular Thursday night dinners, open to the whole community, are suspended because of Covid-19. The church donated their leftover food to St. Augustine's food pantry.

Tuesday is the night for Pub Theology at the Livery.

The church is also helping a former teen buy a used car so he can continue at his two jobs and college in Grand Rapids.

This beautiful view of the Harbor Shores golf course is one of the hundreds of gorgeous scenes we pass by every day. Enjoy!



## JUNE 13 GOLF OUTING AT HARBOR SHORES

We're "shooting" for another great outing at Harbor Shores to raise funds for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen on Monday, June 13.

Shotgun start time will be at 1:00 for this 4-man scramble.

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams. Box lunches and beverages will be loaded on your carts prior to tee-off. Sign-up forms will be e-mailed in early April. If you don't think you're included on the e-mail list, contact [kcgast@yahoo.com](mailto:kcgast@yahoo.com) and you will be!





## Benefit Dinner at The Bistro on the Boulevard

The ever-popular Soup Kitchen Benefit Dinner at the Bistro on the Boulevard returns on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Once again, Soup Kitchen donors will have one of two choices: The special dine-in meal in the restaurant or a take-out, curbside pick-up meal. The menu choices are the same for both. The donation remains at \$80 per person, with all proceeds donated by the generous Bistro family to The Soup Kitchen.

This elegant dining experience includes hors d'oeuvres, the entree of your choice, salad, dessert, wine, beer, and gratuity, with a cash bar for cocktails.

Dinner seatings will be a 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. for 90 minutes each. Curbside meal pick-up times are between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

All past diners and donors to the Benefit Dinner will receive an invitation in the mail. Anyone not receiving an invitation by the end of March should contact The Soup Kitchen at (269) 925-8204 or email [m@soupk.org](mailto:m@soupk.org).

When your invitation arrives, please read it carefully, fill out the menu card, and, along with your check, mail it in the pre-addressed envelope. It is crucial that you include your PHONE NUMBER because you will be called by the Bistro to set up your reservation time for dining-in or for your curbside pick-up time.

We salute the generosity of the Bistro on the Boulevard team: Mark Whitwam, president; general manager Rita Downey; executive chef Cheryl Bernacchi; and dining room manager Bruce Sokol; and the servers and kitchen staff.



## Soup Kitchen Happenings

We held another set of vaccination clinics last November. Attendance was good, but only three people received their first Covid-19 shot. All the others were second, flu, or booster shots. Two of the three first shot recipients had recovered from Covid-19 infection. One older gentleman told me that his wife passed away while they were both hospitalized with Covid-19.

Soup Kitchen attendance is up considerably this winter. We believe this is due to the reduction of SNAP (food stamp) benefits to pre-Covid-19 levels.





## A big problem with the financial industry is ...

It's expensive to be poor. The less money you have, the more it costs you to do basic transactions. If you want to cash a check and you're part of the banking system, it's simple and easy. It's usually free of charge.

"In the U.S., people outside the banking system spend about \$140 billion on unnecessary fees and high-interest rates to complete basic transactions. Think about that amount of money going to those populations that most need it." Dan Schulman, president and CEO of Paypal Holdings.

Many working poor do not have a bank account—they get paid via a cash card. They pay a fee when they take their cash out at a store or bank, and then they pay a fee every time they use that cash to pay a bill. They lose money on every transaction. It also costs money to go somewhere to get your check cashed. You can pay your gas and electric bills at many businesses in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, but at a cost. The payment processor usually charges a transaction fee. Sometimes the merchant also charges a fee, and the poorer the neighborhood, the higher the price.

## Heading home with lunch...



**The Soup Kitchen  
On Guidestar**



### **The Thrivent Choice® Dollars® Program**

Eligible clients can recommend where some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds go.

The Soup Kitchen is eligible. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or ask your representative for more information.

***Food is the ingredient that binds us all together.***