

Background on Roscommon Food Truck Distribution

The Need

Roscommon County poverty levels hover around 20% (2015 = 19.2%*), making it one of the poorest counties in the state (ranked 82 of 83 counties in 2015*).

The First Congregational Church has housed a food pantry for many years, where clients secure canned goods. The need often outstrips resources.

Houghton Lake and St Helen

- The United Methodist Church in Houghton Lake has purchased Food Trucks since at least 2014; most clients are from Houghton Lake and Prudenville.
- St Helen 'We Care' hosts a food pantry to serve their immediate community, and hosted a food truck January 2016.

Roscommon

Messiah Lutheran began hosting free Community Dinners in 2013, led by Mike McCluskey. 'Free will' offerings were given to the First Congregational Church food pantry the first two years. Once Mike learned about the food truck distribution opportunity, community dinner proceeds began being earmarked for food truck events. Messiah Lutheran is too small to host an event, so the first one was held at St Helen Baptist Church January 2016. It was repeated Feb and April 2016.

Word of these events motivated Good Shepherd UMC to host their first event on Sept 17, 2016.

2017 Growth

A loosely-knit group of 5 churches has begun sharing costs and volunteer help for the distribution events. To date, Roscommon Baptist and Good Shepherd UMC are only churches to host a site; Messiah and Congregational churches are too small or have restricted parking which prohibit them as site hosts.

The tentative distribution schedule includes:

Jan 28	Host: Roscommon Baptist
Feb 25	Host: Good Shepherd UMC
March 25	Host: To be determined
April 29	Host: To be determined
Sept 30	Host: To be determined

The cost is \$1,200 per truck; with five churches the cost is \$240 each per distribution. There is some interest to host monthly events; that has not been finalized among the churches.

**Statistics taken from census.gov website*