



WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational † United Church of Christ

"I was hungry, and you fed me." – Matthew 25:35

Village Table is a community food service program managed by members of Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Our mission is to create delicious, healthy, restaurant-quality meals for those in need, helping our neighbors during a time of great economic uncertainty.



Chef Gary Arthur,
*the mastermind behind
the mission*

Under the leadership of Village Church member Gary Arthur – a professional chef who has run food operations for organizations like Stanford, MIT, Sodexo and Aramark – Village Table is a volunteer effort where we cook and package ready-to-eat meals, which we then deliver to those who need them.

Our commercially inspected and licensed kitchen allows us to prepare roughly 300 meals at a time. With funding and donations of raw ingredients, we can achieve our goal by doing approximately 15 week-long food preps, staffed entirely by volunteers.

Our goal with this program is to serve 5,000 meals in our first season.

In this time of economic crisis, hunger is a growing problem, especially in Eastern Massachusetts. According to hunger-relief organization Feeding America, an estimated [1 in 8 people will experience food insecurity](#) due to the growing effects of COVID-19.



Restaurant-quality meals, delivered to those who need them



Roasted Lemon Chicken, with simmered farro and vegetables



Meatless Lasagna, with zucchini, eggplant, red peppers, crimini mushrooms, garden fresh herbs, lots of shredded mozzarella, and marinara sauce

Food is fundamental.

It's a basic human need, and a basic way to help our fellow humans in need. Those of us with food security can give back – both our time and our money – to help those without. In a time when so many of us feel helpless to address the world's ills, it's a real way to help.

Food brings us together.

No matter your political party, your belief system, or your skin color, we all need to eat. In a time of deep divisions within our country, working together to prepare these meals is a way to come together.

Food is Biblical.

In the Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14), the crowds come to hear Jesus preach, but there's not enough food to feed the multitudes. Jesus asks what they've got. A boy brings five loaves and two fishes, which Jesus blesses and passes around. Everyone, miraculously, has enough to eat.

The tradition of sharing food was a hallmark of the early Christian Church, who "shared their meals with great joy and generosity" (Acts 2). Those of us who have taken part in Village Table have experienced that same great joy and generosity—it simply feels good to be helping others during this time.



Village Table makes use of our fully-licensed, restaurant-quality kitchen



Chef Gary Arthur, the mastermind behind the mission



Feeding the 5,000



Meals are flash-frozen for safety, then delivered by Village Table volunteers



We welcome volunteers and support from people of all faiths and backgrounds. To learn more about Village Table, or to donate your time or money, please reach us at:

[\[food@wellesleyvillagechurch.org\]](mailto:food@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

