



# GIVING GARDENS

Sept. 2022

## Greetings All!

I want to start out by thanking you, again, for your support of the initiatives I've led in recent years. Your generosity has made the work of serving the people of our community possible.

Of the efforts and programs that I've been involved with, the gardens have been the closest to my heart. I know that for many in our community, the gardens continue to be a visible source of hope and joy. I look forward to finding ways to continue that work forward in 2023 and beyond.

The Giving Gardens feed the community in a number of ways and at a number of levels. Of course, there are nutritional benefits. At certain times of the year, I've seen families manage to harvest more vegetables than I would have thought possible. When you consider that nearly every kale leaf, every green bean, nearly every tomato or pepper, ripe or green, every raspberry gets harvested, you quickly see that we are getting a lot of food into the community, and it's good, local, nutrient rich food.

## Giving Garden Gathering!

Join us at the 400 E. Carroll St.  
Giving Garden Oct. 9th, 11:30a-1p to  
celebrate a successful season and  
share ideas for 2023.



Cut Flowers!



Donated tomatoes at the share table



A HUGE thank you to the members of 1st Pres. for hosting one of the Giving Gardens and serving as our fiscal sponsor. Thanks too, to Rev. Rene Whitaker, Sheila Nollen, and Courtney Blankenship for serving on the Giving Garden Advisory Committee



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*"A special thank you to each of you who provided great service to our community. You are appreciated for all the time spent preparing, planting and caring for all the delicious produce and beautiful flowers. May you be blessed for your kindness and volunteer service to all."*

A Giving Garden Supporter

The gardens also provide habitat and sustenance for our increasingly besieged local pollinators. Great numbers of bees and butterflies visit the cut flower patches that are included as part of each of the gardens. They also visit and pollinate other crops such as the tomatoes and peppers and have been very busy pollinating the raspberries in the new patch at the First Presbyterian garden.

It's wonderful to see so many families with young children in the gardens! Kids are often running up and down the paths, picking handfuls of half ripe cherry tomatoes or fistfuls of zinnia blooms. I see them wandering through the gardens curiously, sometimes asking questions. What is okra? What do you do with cilantro? Can you eat a raw green bean? When are raspberries ripe? Adults ask these questions too.

Most importantly though, the gardens seem to feed the spirit of the people who visit them. They are becoming valued sanctuaries of hope and community. The gardens are places where everyone, rich or poor, young or old, red or blue, come together and receive our freely offered gifts of beauty and sustenance.

Thanks again for your support of the gardens and my work in the community. It continues to be both a pleasure and an honor to be your gardener.



**Hope to see  
you on  
Oct. 9th!**



## Giving Garden at Project Insight

Operating in partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Macomb, and with financial support from individual donors in the community, we've maintained Giving Gardens in four locations this summer: Project Insight (on the corner of West Adams St. and Johnson St.); Mt. Calvary Church (at 1500 E. Pierce St.); and at 1st Presbyterian Church (at 400 E. Carroll St.); as well as a strip of tomato plants located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (at 300 Wigwam Hollow Rd.) - BIG thanks to Macomb Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Twomey, and leadership at each of the churches for their ongoing collaboration.

## Support the Giving Gardens

Checks can be written to 1st Presbyterian Church at 400 E. Carroll St. in Macomb, with Giving Gardens in the memo line.