

What if. . .

Giving Gardens
December, 2022

What if fresh vegetables, herbs, berries and flowers were available to everyone in our community, regardless of their ability to pay?

What if we could supplement the industrial food products offered by local food pantries with fresh, local vegetables, herbs and berries grown by community volunteers?

What if abandoned lots and unused patches of ground in our community were converted into vegetable gardens, orchards, berry patches, wildflower plantings and prairie restorations?

What if ongoing and seasonally appropriate education about how to grow and maintain gardens was available to everyone?

What if our community featured a lending library of garden and yard tools, so that everyone could participate in converting underused land in our community to productive spaces?

What if solar houses were used to extend the season so that cold hardy crops such as lettuce, kale, spinach and carrots would be available even in the dead of winter and other crops were available for an additional six weeks or more?

What if our community became an oasis for songbirds, butterflies and other migrating visitors that pass through our neighborhoods?

What if there was a Giving Garden within easy walking distance of every home in our community?

These aren't impossible visions of the future.

This can happen here.

We can do this.





A future gardener helped her family gather vegetables at the 1st Pres. Garden.

Up to Now

The Giving Gardens have been a crucial, local resource providing:

- Fresh vegetables, herbs and berries available to everyone in the community
- Essential pollinator habitat
- Cut flowers to brighten homes and offices
- Sanctuaries of hope and community

Moving Forward

In 2023, we want to move to the next phase of the Giving Gardens by **EMPOWERING** people to garden for themselves, their families and their community, by offering:

- Garden classes and garden labs for community members
- Material support for local gardeners, including tools, plants, pots, soil mixes, seeds
- Bulk vegetable plantings to share with local food pantries
- Additional Giving Gardens to increase community access

Some of Our Pressing Funding Needs:

- Deer Fencing for all gardens - estimated \$5500
- Bulk compost and soil amendments - \$2000
- Drip Irrigation tools and supplies - \$500
- Seeds, pots, potting mix and materials for garden classes and garden labs - \$950
- Garden Tools - \$3,650

DEER

The #1 threat to the Giving Gardens



There's no doubt about it. **Our community has a deer problem** and it extends to the Giving Gardens. This past season, it was evident that deer visited the gardens regularly. They cropped our snap peas and green beans, ate the centers out of young tomatoes, and completely destroyed our fall greens. **We need fencing.**

We are so excited to be moving forward with plans for the Giving Gardens in 2023 and in the years to come!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John A. R.".

How You Can Help

Your donation helps to fund ongoing programming and allows us to move forward with our new initiatives.

Checks can be written to First Presbyterian Church at 400 E. Carroll St., Macomb, IL 61455. **Please put Giving Gardens in the memo line.**

Giving Gardens has a new website! Check it out at **Givinggardensforall.com**. Donations can also be made on our giving page.

Thank you for your support and best wishes to you and yours during the holiday season.