



centre street church
christ at the centre
cchurch.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

Is CSC discontinuing prepared meals and freezer meals?

As COVID restrictions are removed, we sense God leading us to resume our vision of food being a doorway for life change. In this exciting season of gathering once again, we will continue to provide food but it will be less about quantity and more about quality and depth of missional impact in the spirit of John 10:10. It's about walking alongside people as they take steps toward more fullness of life. That is why we will be reopening The Well Café where people can enjoy a bite to eat while having fun, conversation, and community. The delivery of boxed lunches and frozen meals will wind down with select partners receiving them where we see continued opportunity for maximum ministry impact. Our food and clothing hampers will continue. We will also continue to respond to people in crisis and distress through the provision of emergency needs, which includes emergency hampers and bags of food, grocery store gift cards, bus tickets and support for those facing eviction and/or disconnection of utilities. This aspect of our ministry is in the spirit of James 2:16 ("if one of you says to them 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?").

How were these programs funded?

This program was made possible by God's provision through a combination of COVID-19 emergency grants and the generosity of our congregation. The Meals Ministry was a powerful way to serve and work with more people in our community than ever before. We are also looking forward to transitioning from quantity to quality of ministry engagement so we can serve every aspect of need – addressing physical, emotional, relational and spiritual needs in the spirit of John 10:10.

We know CSC was chosen for these grants because of our already existing, proven track record of being a church in the community, delivering mass quantities of food to people in need. That we were selected as recipients for the province's COVID-19 Community Response Fund was a wonderful testimony of the presence and reputation of God's church during an emergency, and our strength in leading a large-scale collaboration across the community (including government, non-profits, and our own congregation).

In what ways did God provide for our Ministry to people in need during COVID-19?

God opened so many new doors for partnership and community connection through the meals programs as they connected us with more people and more community partnerships than ever before including over 30 non-profit organizations. Coming out of these partnerships, Centre Street Church (through Compassionate Ministries) has been at the forefront of poverty alleviation in Calgary and is looked to by local agencies, including our key partner, the Calgary Food Bank, as a significant community player in meeting the needs of our city's most vulnerable. The growth of these partnerships during COVID also inspired deeper avenues of relationship and participation between our Compassionate Ministry and our wider congregation as people wrote thousands of notes of encouragement, offered their time to volunteer in greater numbers and increased direct donations and contributions to the meal ministry. We will continue to foster those connections as we step into an exciting new season of in-person ministry. God is always up to something good and we will continue to follow His leading!

Will all of our pre-COVID ministries be resuming? Which ministries will be available?

All our pre-COVID ministries [listed here](#) will be back in operation. Once [construction](#) of the Centre for the City is complete and we have more space, we will resume our large monthly community meals, serving on average around 250 people in need from the extended community.

