

April 2020 Communion Offering to benefit Friendship House

First Baptist Birmingham has continued to give consistent support to Friendship House, an American Baptist mission, non-profit organization in Hamtramck. Some of our members serve on their Board of Directors. Their ministry serves a diverse community of residents, mostly immigrants, to help with basic human needs, such as food and clothing. The Outreach Team has decided to replace the agency designated for April with Friendship House because of their extreme and immediate need during the COVID 19 pandemic. Forty-nine per cent of Hamtramck lives under the national poverty line and depend on food and clothing from this ministry.

The building is closed now since they are honoring the government guidelines to stay at home, and their distribution hours have been reduced to one hour, three days a week. Cathy Maher, Executive Director, is asking us to broadcast their escalating need at this time. She said she was able to redirect a Gleaners truck to another warehouse after they closed their building, so the delivery could help feed 300 families. Cathy is also trying to keep her office manager paid while she is working from home and has young children to support. Friendship House is in the same dilemma as many charities and businesses affected by COVID 19, as they struggle to stay in business while meeting an overwhelming demand for services at the same time.

Cathy is asking for prayers for the community; the helpers who have stepped up to volunteer and those coming to Friendship House for their only source of food during this devastating time. She is encouraged by the connections forming to create a neighborhood of compassion. Your donation can help keep services flowing at Friendship House, even with its doors closed, as they demonstrate our Covenant's commitment to meet each others' needs and show compassion.