

Help the Hungry and Enjoy Family Fun at June 10 Musicfest of Praise in Piscataway

Admission free with donation of nonperishable food items



Musicfest of Praise 2016

The fifth annual Musicfest of Praise will provide concertgoers with an opportunity to enjoy the contemporary Christian music of four diverse bands, take part in various family-friendly activities and meet special guests from Rutgers University – all while helping the hungry.

The event is June 10 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the front lawn of Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway.

The church, located at 485 Hoes Lane in Piscataway, hosts Musicfest of Praise as a means to serve the community by gathering and sharing food with the needy. Admission to the event is free with the donation of nonperishable food items. The primary beneficiary of Musicfest food donations will be the Rutgers Student Food Pantry. Student-athletes from Rutgers will help collect the donations and greet concertgoers.

There's growing recognition that food insecurity – the lack of reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food – is common at colleges and universities. In a 2016 study, 20 percent of students at four-year schools were characterized as having very low food security. Rutgers is one of many schools that has established a student food pantry in the past few years.

The bands featured at this year's Musicfest will be Messiah's Quest, the Christ United Methodist Church praise band, and three other groups reflecting diverse musical backgrounds. They are Rhythm and Praise, a Filipino band from Bible Church International in Randolph; the Piscataway Praise Singers, an Indian band; and Break Ministry, a group that reaches out to high school and college students in New Jersey and neighboring states.



World of Sports Junior play area

A portion of the lawn will be devoted to activity areas for children, ministry information tables and food and beverage concessions. With the assistance of the Rutgers student-athletes, children will engage in a variety of games within an inflatable play area. In addition, children will have the opportunity to build crafts, participate in hunger awareness activities and get their faces and nails painted.

For directions to Christ United Methodist Church, visit <http://www.christumcpiscataway.com/Directions.htm>.

Rutgers Student Food Pantry: At the Top of the Shopping List

While the Rutgers Student Food Pantry will gratefully accept all types of nonperishable foods and toiletries, here are items at the very top of the pantry's donation wish list:

- Mac and cheese
- Rice (small bags/boxes)
- Snacks (granola bars, dried fruit, crackers, Jello, pudding)
- Personal care items ("full-size" toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo)

The food pantry provides emergency relief for full-time, part-time, undergraduate and graduate Rutgers students, and it is not supported by state funds. It relies extensively on donations from local religious organizations and members of the university community.

To learn more about the food pantry, visit <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food>.