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# Food pantry reopens after flood

## Evening hours meant to help working people

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THOMAS PATTERSON | Statesman Journal



Written by Saerom Yoo Statesman Journal

The Salem Community of Christ and United Apostolic Church, which share a campus, were in the process of replacing the roof of their gym and

...flooded the property.

The roof wasn't secured and the churches now had much more to replace.

After replanning and rebuilding, the 3,000-square-foot area is ready to reopen. It includes bathrooms, offices and the foyer. Although the congregations continued to hold services, the Good Samaritan

Food Pantry, operated by the church, was

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Pastor Margaret Polly and workers help set up the food pantry Monday after a November 2009 flood damaged the Good Samaritan food pantry. The pantry reopened Thursday after much rebuilding. / Thomas Patterson / Statesman Journal

## At a glance

What: Good Samaritan Food Pantry

Where: 4570 Center St. NE

Hours: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays

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unable to feed thousands of its hungry neighbors.

The pantry reopened Thursday and will be open each Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m..

Dan Murphy, co-director of the pantry, said some people have a difficult time getting to food pantries because of their hours.

"The people that are working poor and can't get away from work to get food can't access the food pantry," he said. "We chose to open in the early evening to help solve that problem."

In the food pantry's 10 months of operation before the flood, it served about 11,000 people, Murphy said.

Good Samaritan is one of 95 agencies receiving distributions from Marion-Polk Food Share.

Katey Axtell, who handles agency relations for the food share, said Good Samaritan's reopening is significant because it is in an area of high needs.

According to Salem-Keizer School District, nine of the 11 schools close to the pantry have at least 70 percent of their students enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs.

One of those, Hoover Elementary School, has 95.4 percent of its students in the program.

Axtell said the closest pantry to Good Samaritan is at Trinity United Methodist Church, 590 Elma Ave. SE. It is open 1 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"Now we're going to reopen and we're going back to our mandate," Murphy said.

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