

The Elders of Brady Lane church have a two-part announcement to share with the community of Lafayette.

Part 1

On Tuesday January 31, 2023, the Elders of Brady Lane Church shared the decision with our food pantry team that we would be shutting down the Food Pantry effective immediately. There have been many meetings within the last few months and years with the Food Pantry Representatives to discuss options of maintaining their purpose of providing food to the needy and the Elders developing our Vision Plan to create classroom space for future growth.

In summary of the meetings with the Representatives, the central issue to be resolved was space. Space needed for them to store food, equipment and the option to expand as they acquired more food inventory. The Elders had also been working on a vision that God had given us to create a dedicated space for our Next Generation Ministry due to the significant growth in the Children and Youth ministries over the last several years.

Consolidating the Food Pantry in the Fellowship Hall provided only a short term solution as they quickly filled the space and began storing food in a nearby classroom and hallway. However, the consolidation did open classroom space for the Children's area and to divide the children by ages rather all of them sharing a couple rooms.

As the discussion continued back and forth, one option that seemed feasible, was to build a new faculty near the garage to serve as a drive thru area and move The Food Pantry there. This was met with mixed reactions from the Representatives and from the leadership. For the Elders, the biggest drawback was that it would require taking time and money away from creating new dedicated next generation/children's space per our Vision Plan.

The Elders spent time in prayer and it was determined that we could not afford to financially support both options. Based on discussions with The Representatives, the Elders believe whatever options presented, it would not satisfy them. So the Elders agreed unanimously to shut down the Food Pantry immediately.

Any food pantry offering designations that have been received will be distributed to other organizations that supply food to the community. We ask that all future designations to BLC Food pantry be stopped immediately.

We understand this was not an easy decision to hear and we understand that people would feel hurt and angry. We recognize and appreciate the dedication and work that many have done over the years to serve the Lord by feeding the hungry thru the Brady Lane Church Food Pantry.

Now for the second part of the announcement

We can share with you that on Friday February 3rd, there was a discussion between the Representatives and The Elders on a phase out plan for the Food Pantry with the option to continue their mission till March 31. We will meet with the Representatives to finalize the details at our February Elders meeting to help The Food Pantry to finish their purpose.

Details will be communicated once they are known.

Any food leftover will be collected by Food Finders and redistributed to the other Food Pantries in the Lafayette area. Any equipment that belongs to anyone can be collected by coordinating with the church office. Whatever equipment is leftover will be given to needing Food Pantries or used here at Brady Lane.

Brady Lane Church is STILL committed to ministering to the hurts and needs of the Lafayette and West Lafayette Communities. We hope to continue to partner with Food Finders Food Bank and other organizations to find ways to continue to feed the hungry people of our community, we can just no longer host a pantry in our facility.

Thank you.

THE ELDERS OF BRADY LANE CHURCH