

Farm and Faith Partnership 2023 Fall CSA Shares

To those who are currently participating in the CSA, thank you! We hope you've been enjoying your produce and will continue to support our farmers as we move into the fall season. To those who took a break for the summer, welcome back. We hope you'll join us again this fall. To those who have not yet participated, the fall season is a great time to start!

Buying a CSA share is about more than just getting fresh produce. It's about supporting our community, reconnecting with the land, and living out God's call to love our neighbor.

"Churches and farmers can have a greater impact on their community when they partner together and focus on their strengths. Farmers are able to grow and sell fresh, healthy food, while churches have community connections to distribute the food. Together, both groups make an impact on food insecurity while ensuring that farmers are paid a fair price." (1)

This year, we're offering an exciting opportunity to increase our community impact! If you would like to support our Farm and Faith Partnership but do not want or need the produce, please consider purchasing a full or half share to be donated to the food pantry at our sister church, Wilson Temple UMC. Or, buy a share for yourself AND Wilson Temple. We will continue to donate our CSA members' unclaimed bags of CSA produce to our staff and occasionally to Wilson Temple as well.

The Eatons are busy planning and planting fall crops, which will hopefully include fennel, kohlrabi, lettuces, Swiss chard, radishes, herbs, peppers, bok choy, greens, cauliflower, broccoli, broccolini, beets, cabbage, onions, assorted squashes, small pumpkins, and more. *Please keep in mind that farming is filled with uncertainties, and this list might change.* Regardless, there will be a plentiful harvest each week.

Sign up for the fall CSA and invite your neighbors, friends, and family to join, too.

Here's how it works:

- *Sign up at hbumc.org/signups from August 13 to August 31.*
- *Payment is due by September 1. To pay online go to www.hbumc.org/give, click "Give Online" then choose the Fund "Adult Events" and include CSA in the memo line. Or you can drop off a check at church with "CSA" in the memo.*
- *A full share is \$250 for 8 weeks of produce (\$31.25/week). A half share is \$125 (\$15.63/week).*
- *A full share provides several days of produce for a family of 4 each week. Each delivery will contain a variety of 4-5 produce items. Full shares often get bonus crops as a special thank you from the farmer. A half-share is a great option for an individual or a couple and provides about half the amount of produce as a full share.*
- *Another option is to share a full share with a neighbor, friend, or family member. That way you can divide it as you want and cover for each other when one is out of town.*

- *If you want to participate but don't need or want the produce, there will be an option to purchase a full or half share for the food pantry at our sister church, Wilson Temple UMC. Or, buy a share for yourself AND Wilson Temple.*
- *Fall deliveries will begin Friday, September 15 and will run for 8 consecutive weeks through Friday, November 3.*
- *Pick up your share in the Fellowship Hall at the Stone Street entrance between 11:45am and 12:45pm on the Fridays of delivery. We strongly encourage you to stop by at that time so you can meet other CSA members and build our CSA community. Bags that are not picked up at that time will be stored in the kitchen refrigerator until Monday at 4pm, but space in the refrigerator is limited. **NOTE:** If there are any changes you'll be notified by email.*
- *Unclaimed produce will be donated. If you know ahead of time that you want to donate a particular week's produce, please let us know as soon as possible.*

Egg shares and chickens:

- Lakay Farm will once again offer egg shares—full (1 dozen for 8 weeks, \$48), half (1 dozen every other week for 4 weeks, \$24), and quarter (1 dozen week 1, and 1 dozen week 5, \$12).
- Signups are handled directly by Lakay Farm, and that information will be sent to you after signing up for the CSA. You will receive your farm-fresh eggs along with the CSA produce.
- Lakay Farm will also sell free-range chickens, but they will be delivered separately to your door. This information will be provided after you sign up for the CSA.

Meet the Farmers:

- 1) *You are invited to show up as early as 11:30am on delivery days to meet the farmers.*
- 2) *The Eatons will be at the HBUMC Wednesday night program on September 13th so please mark your calendar! More information will follow.*

The Farm and Faith Partnership at Hayes Barton UMC is run by our Biblical Justice Action Team (BJAT) and is also part of the Creation Care initiatives. Our goal is to intentionally live out the UMC Social Principles, and our CSA partnership is one way we do that. Learn more about the Social Principles on our website page: <https://www.hbumc.org/justice>

Learn more about RAFI-USA's Farm and Faith Partnership Project at <https://www.rafiusa.org/programs/cttt/farm-and-faith-partnerships-project/>

If you have questions, contact Bobbi Mullins (bobbi.n.mullins@gmail.com), Janet Gruchacz (gruchaczj@gmail.com), Beth Baker (bethbaker1018@yahoo.com), or Lucy Allen (rphallenll@gmail.com)

(1) Food, Faith, and Farmers of Color: A Guide for Community Collaboration. RAFI-USA. Page 8. <https://www.rafiusa.org/programs/cttt/farm-and-faith-partnerships-project/>