



# The Fentress Giving Garden

A collaborative, interdenominational food ministry  
Issue 2025-5, July 20, 2025

## What We Need

**Tomato cages:** Please drop them off at the garden. If you need us to come pick them up, please contact Judy or Janet. Their contact info is on page two of this newsletter.

**Leaves and pine needles:** Please keep us in mind as fall cleanup time approaches.

## Around the Garden

The garden has been much more active than your scribe recently. The sun, the rain, and the heat are upon us. That makes our garden volunteers warm, soggy, and thirsty. It also makes our garden plants grow, and produce, which they are doing abundantly. The onion, garlic, and potato harvests are behind us. Sweet potatoes are sown and growing nicely. Tomatoes, cantaloupe, cucumbers, bell peppers, jalapeño peppers, eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, and basil are being harvested almost every day and distributed to our participating food pantries. It is a joy to see these beautiful fruits and vegetables made available to our neighbors who need them.



One early morning in the second week of July a team of early risers met at Bergey's farm, having been invited by the Bergey's to glean corn. In short order some 175 dozen ears of corn were picked, loaded into, two pick-up trucks and taken to the garden for processing, sorting and distribution. For several years Mr. Bergey has invited us to glean from his sweet corn fields, and we are exceedingly grateful to them. If you happen to stop by the Bergey Breadbasket, feel free to mention how grateful we are to them for their generosity in helping our food disadvantaged neighbors.

#### Gleaning Corn



Who knew people could look happy at 6:30 A.M? Maybe people look happy when they're doing Kingdom work no matter the hour.

Our new tractor is already assisting us in several ways. It cultivated our potato crop, turned the potatoes for harvesting, tilled part of the garden, assisted in moving some heavy equipment items, and does yeoman's work moving bulk material around the garden. What a delightful and helpful addition it has been!





In this writer's opinion, the most important bit of news is that of faces. We see quite a few new faces around the garden; people willing to volunteer their time to help make the garden a resounding success. Some volunteers appear regularly, some only for special events such as potato harvests or major planting occasions. We love getting to know these people and having them be a part of this mission no matter how often or how long we see them. Each volunteer who does a task removes that task from the rather long list of things to be done. **Thank you** to everyone who helps!

It takes many helping hands to grow, harvest and deliver our produce to our neighbors.





## How Much is That?



**Who cares how much it weighs?** Well, we do. Knowing the weight helps us better understand our growing success year after year, and it helps us get a sense of what crops we should grow.

**How do we know how much we harvested?** With the crops we can distribute as soon as we harvest them, we weigh them right after picking. With crops that have to cure before we handle and distribute them, we weigh them when we package them for distribution.

**How do we weigh the produce?** Using the scale seen here, and with the weight recorded in the log book. It's fun to think of gardening as planting the seeds then waiting until harvest time and then enjoying the produce, but there is a lot of behind the scenes effort invested in this, and every, garden.

## Get involved!!!

There are many ways you can help... By working in the garden, supporting us financially, providing pine straw or leaf mulch, supplying new plastic bags for produce delivery to the food pantries, providing bottled water for volunteers, spreading the word to help us grow our volunteer base, praying for this ministry.

To learn more, contact Judy Speas ([judithspeas@gmail.com](mailto:judithspeas@gmail.com)) at Centerville Baptist Church, or Janet Grubbs ([jdgrubbs72@gmail.com](mailto:jdgrubbs72@gmail.com)) at Great Bridge United Methodist Church. Can't wait to hear from you.

## **We Have Harvested this Year**

Our crops are producing abundantly. Look at the table below to see what we harvested and donated so far. All numbers are harvest weight in pounds:

<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>June – mid July</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>
Basil	2	2
Blueberries	7	18
Cantaloupe	107	107
Cucumber	368	368
Eggplant	28	28
Garlic	63	67
Green Beans	198	198
Kale	4	19
Lettuce	174	311
Onions	364	391
Peppers (bell, jalapeño, banana)	726	726
Potatoes	7	7
Summer Squash	344	425
Tomatoes (large, Roma, Juliette, cherry)	731	731
Zucchini	<u>406</u>	<u>473</u>
Total	3,528	3,888

In addition, we harvested several hundred pounds of potatoes, yet to be distributed, and, as mentioned above, we were invited to glean some 175 dozen ears of sweet corn, not weighed, but distributed to four of our partner food pantries.

## **The Fentress Giving Garden**

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