

SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

What is SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) currently serves more than 47 million participants in about 23 million low-income households.ⁱ Enrollment in the program has almost doubled over the past five years as more people struggle to make ends meet. Even as more people are turning to SNAP to feed their families, many people remain misinformed about this vital program.

What is the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge?

The Challenge simply means choosing for one week to live on the average amount of food stamp support. That means spending only a designated dollar amount per day, per person, on *everything* that you eat, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, seasonings and drinks.

Learn what the allowance in your state by clicking [here](#).

When will the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge take place?

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will engage in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge November 17-23, 2013.

Why is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) participating?

Our Christian commitment to addressing and raising awareness regarding the pervasive nature of hunger in the United States and abroad is the basis for the PC(USA)'s engagement in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge. Through the efforts of our denominational leaders and others, we are signaling to our nation that hunger is a significant issue that cannot be ignored.

The SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge is an opportunity to stress the importance of our biblical mandate as Christians to ensure that hungry people of the world, including those in our own nation, are foremost in our thoughts, our ministry, and our advocacy.

As people of faith, our morality as citizens of a divine covenant requires us to focus on fair distribution of the abundance that God gives to us. In so doing, we must acknowledge that food distribution in the United States is unfair in its affordability and accessibility, particularly among the poor.

We encourage congregational leaders and members to join in with Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons, Moderator Neal Presa, and Executive Director Linda Valentine by raising a consciousness in your own community through participating in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge at whatever level is possible for you and your community.

How can I get involved?

There are a variety of ways that you can engage in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge!

- Take the Challenge – choose to live on the average amount of food stamp support in your state for one week. [Register now](#).
- Pray and use the [SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge Devotional](#)
- Screen “[A Place at the Table](#)”
- Give to the [SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge Fund](#)
- Contact Congressional representatives
 - Instead of this being an isolated week in your life, we pray that it may be an experience that transforms you and others through you. Call or visit the local office of your

Congresspersons to share your concern about reducing this safety net in your community. As Congress considers drastic cuts to this safety net, send letters to Congress electronically (<http://capwiz.com/pcusa/dbq/officials/>) through the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness.

My personal food budget is close to or below the SNAP benefit in my state is, why would I participate in the Challenge?

We acknowledge that many people, whether dependent on SNAP benefits or not, live within these allowances. Financial pressures on so called "middle class" individuals and families is also a great concern; our economy must be just and fair for all. By joining in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge, and consciously living within these allowances together, we pray that awareness is raised, consciences are aroused and actions are taken so that all people have access to their basic needs.

Where can I find additional information?

- Visit the [SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge website](#)
- Like the Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry on [Facebook](#)
- Follow the Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry on [Twitter](#)

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. SNAP is Effective and Efficient. Updated March 11, 2013.
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3239>