

## **Summer Lunch Program**

This summer, our neighbors at The Journey Church are beginning a new program in Springfield to help feed local kids during the summer. Chad Simpkins, one of the congregation's new associate pastors, started this program 4 years ago in Chapel Hill, NC, where last summer a combined 650 volunteers filled 2,000 volunteer slots to hand out 48,000 meals and 3,500 books. Imagine the good we can do together in our community!

By participating in this program, we will be partnering with The Journey, Fairfax County Food and Nutrition Services, the USDA, Virginia Department of Health, Fairfax County Libraries, and others. Pastor Simpkins approached us because in conversations in the community, St. Mark's kept coming up as one he should connect with about this program. It will be serving 3 sites: Springfield Gardens, Springfield Square and Chelsea Square.

Check out the website for more information. <https://summerlunchbunch.org/>

This summer lunch program is exactly the kind of work God is calling us to as we seek to make **new connections** with our neighbors! Join me and my family as we love and serve God and neighbor by signing up to participate in this program. You can sign up for multiple slots or just one. You can also try one, then sign up for more once you realize how much you love it. Adults and youth are welcome to participate; and anyone under 18 is eligible to eat so our youth have an opportunity to make even deeper connections by sharing in the meal.