

# Gleaners remain on suspension

## No distribution pending decision from Food for Lane County

By Caitlyn May  
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The local Gleaner organization—charged with distributing food to low-income families—remains under suspension from Food for Lane County after a complaint was filed against the Gleaner's citing their work practices.

According to the Gleaners Food for Lane County, a food bank that distributes food to more than 150 programs, took issue with the fact that the organization mandated those seeking the near-expired food in the form of food boxes work a set number of hours at a set time helping the Gleaners collect and distribute the food as well as clean-up after distribution. Cottage Grove's Gleaners were placed on suspension from receiving food from Food for Lane County for up to 90 days until it addressed the issues cited by the food bank.

Gleaners, as a whole, can glean fruit and vegetables from farms after harvest or utilize several methods by which to collect food to distribute to low-income families who qualify for food assistance. The food the Gleaners distribute is often

near expiration and remains safe for human consumption for a handful of days after distribution.

"We're having committee meetings every day to work this out," said Gleaner's Sherry Adams. Those meetings remain unverified as they are closed to both the public and the press. "We can't say 'You have to work from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.' we have to say 'You have to help unload, pack your own box and help clean up,'" she said. "It's a matter of playing patty cake with BOLI."

However, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Communications Director Charlie Burr stated that after having a conversation with the local Gleaners, he was told the group was not acting on a specific BOLI rule, but Oregon's minimum wage law—which BOLI enforces.

"Under the law, 'employ' is defined as 'to suffer or permit to work' but excludes 'voluntary or donated services performed for no compensation or without expectation or contemplation of compensation as the adequate consideration for the services performed for a public employer referred to in subsection (3) of this section, or a religious, charitable, educational, public service or similar

nonprofit corporation, organization or institution for community service, religious or humanitarian reasons or for services performed by general or public assistance recipients as part of any work training program administered under the state or federal assistance laws." Assuming that the food bank is a nonprofit, individuals could certainly volunteer if they weren't expecting to get paid and were volunteering in order to perform a community or humanitarian service. We have not conducted any investigations that looked into the question of whether receiving food in exchange for labor would trigger the need for wage payments," Burr wrote in an email. "To our knowledge, Gleaners was not acting on specific guidance from our agency or analysis of their unique situation. If we did receive a complaint or claim, our Wage and Hour Division would look into whether the nonprofit owed volunteers wages for their labor," he said.

According to Adams, the Gleaners are currently revamping their organization's paperwork.

"We have to file again with the Secretary of State, we weren't exactly following Roberts

Rules of Order [a commonly used method of conducting meetings for decision-making bodies] but now we will be," she said.

Until the group complies with requests from Food for Lane County's suspension, it will not be permitted to receive food from the food bank. Karen Edmonds, the current Food for Lane County contact regarding the Cottage Grove Gleaners was unavailable for comment. A Food for Lane County representative noted that the food bank has no comment regarding the situation absent Edmonds.

Adams said she expects the Gleaners to hold their usual distribution on September 15, subject to a decision by Food for Lane County.

Those receiving food from the Gleaners previously and are currently without a food source can visit the organizations listed on this page.

Qualifications and requirements may differ. Please inquire with representatives from the various organizations here for more information.

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# Worship Directory

**DRAIN: HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE: 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine  
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey  
Service: 10am,  
Sunday School: 9am for all ages  
Christian Education  
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**  
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)  
541-942-6842  
Pastor: Jeff Smith  
Two Services on Sun:  
9am & 10:45am  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Child Care 10:45am Service Only  
www.cgcalvary.org

**Center for Spiritual Living**  
Cottage Grove  
700 Gibbs Ave.  
(Community Center)  
Rev. Bobby Lee  
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
cslcottagetrove@gmail.com

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueft  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children's Ministry available  
Service: 10:00am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711  
Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Pastor: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
www.cgpresbynews.com

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshipupc.com  
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**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Pastor Rulon Combs  
Worship & Children's  
Church 10:00 am  
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
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**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi**  
Catholic Churches  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712  
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen  
Holy Mass:  
Tue-Thu: 8:30am; Sat: 5:30pm  
Sun: 10:30am  
Confession: After daily mass,  
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)  
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm  
cottagetroveumc.org

**"VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

# Food assistance

**Community Sharing: 1440 Birch Ave, Cottage Grove.**

Client Services Hours

11:00 am – 3:30 pm

Monday through Friday

Executive Director Mike Fleck previously told The Sentinel that there's a good possibility those receiving food from the Gleaners would also qualify for food assistance from Community Sharing.

**Soup's On: Cottage Grove Community Center**

Free meal on Sunday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church: 675 S 7th St, Cottage Grove**

Free meal 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

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