

# February 2021



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

### Looking Forward Together

BY MATT MATTHEWS

MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

The newsletter deadline rolls around sooner than expected every month. I hope you are tuning in on Sunday mornings to worship and are reading the daily emailers we send Monday-Friday. Most of my thoughts are included in those two forums. As we are on the cusp of Lent, here's some of what I'm looking forward to

- At our upcoming Thursday book study we'll be exploring race through Ta-Nehisi Coates' powerhouse *Between The World and Me*.
- The Session begins an informal, in-house visioning process where we'll wonder about what ministry may look like in the coming seasons. Pray for your elders.
- I'm attending an on-line conference offered by the Presbyterian Foundation on Generosity in March.
- For March 7<sup>th</sup>, I'm working on a sermon about mental health. (See Mark 1:21-28).
- The Kitchen Committee is sorting and washing dishes, buying stainless racks, and loading up our new kitchen! They are testing the equipment and soon will be cooking a few 'test meals.'
- A new elevator project gets underway asap. We've purchased what is known as a "lift" that will be able to transport 700-pounds from the hallway in Westminster Hall to Centennial Hall. No more bumping wheelchairs down stairs.
- We are beginning limited in-person services of worship on February 21.
- Our congregational meeting via ZOOM is on Sunday at 10 AM on February 14.

We're doing all of this (and more) in a season of pandemic. Like you, I can't wait to get back to the new normal, whatever that looks like. Mainly, I look forward to seeing you face to face. I've been careful and limited in my visiting. I've not visited in the hospital since mid-March; this marks the longest stint away from hospital visits in over 30-years of ministry. It feels weird. It also feels weird that I have limited my visits to Zoom and some physically-

continued on the next page

### Looking Forward to Easter

Your Worship Committee has been planning for Lent.

The **Ash Wednesday** service will be virtual at 7 PM Wednesday February 17.

Ash Wednesday **distribution of ashes** will be drive-thru at Doxology Lane from Noon to 1 PM.

9 AM Sunday **Lenten services** will be virtual, as usual.

11 AM to 2:30 PM Chapel of the Education Building will be open Sundays in Lent to experience a **spirituality center** with a walking labyrinth and quiet contemplation stations.

**Easter week** services are still in the planning stages.

Finally--The Worship Committee, guided by the Church's Covid Committee, is planning **in-person worship** at 10:15 AM on Sundays starting Sunday, February 21, the first Sunday in Lent. For those of you who feel safe to attend, please pre-register by calling the church office at 217.356.7238. Registration will run from Monday morning to Thursday noon the week before each service. (We are preregistering not only as a means of contact-tracing, but also to keep attendance at or under fifty [50] people, including worship leaders and ushers. That is the limit prescribed by state public health guidelines.)

distanced and masked meetings at my office. I've gone on a few walks with church members and friends, weather permitting. But this pales in comparison to my hopes for our future.

With pandemic's end nearly in sight, let's remain cautious and careful. Don't be the last person to die from Covid.

Bless you all.  
Matt Matthews

*Dear Dogs & Other Losses*  
Matt Matthews

(Some of you liked this recent article from my daily mail. I'm sharing it again.)

We put our beloved Casey Dog down two weekends ago and reminders still explode into our daily routine flashing light and tears through which Casey saunters into our mind's eye, one ear up, one ear down, with that ready smile. This is my anthropomorphism at work, I'm sure, but I imagine her saying to us, I miss you, too.

Today it was the refrigerator notes on dog-care for the sitter that broke the gates through which memory flooded in. Those notes now come down. The auto-fill on her drugs from the pharmacy are cancelled so we won't be getting those pesky robo-calls about Casey's medicine being ready for pick up. No more Gabapentin. No more Quellin. And no more watching our sweet dog stagger around in dazed pain, nine pills a day.

But now we have to pick up the bacon scraps from the floor because she no longer Hoovers that stuff up. There is no dog bed to step over in the wee hours on my way to the toilet. No staccato click-clack-click of toenails on the

hardwood telegraphing her location. No fierce barking when another dog walks by on the street and the front door is open. No barking when the UPS truck idles outside at the curb and the front door is closed.

There is no canine shadow to follow you from room to room to room napping wherever you read, watch tv, or chat. She used to watch us being consumed by our computers. "What are you doing?" she seemed to ask. "You should play with me instead of talking into that stranded machine that makes you irritable."

There is no scratching at the back door to go out, no looking up and asking with big brown eyes, "Isn't it time for you to scratch my ear and give me a dog biscuit?" No twitching and whimpering in her dreams as she chases squirrels or does whatever dogs do in their dreams. No marking her ground around everyone's mailbox and not caring one bit about what and where property lines actually fall. No sniffing strangers' crotches and panting an earnest hello. No wrestling my sons with her snarl and flip of that tail, frolicking, pretend-biting, licking, nuzzling. No barking at our play-fights when she says to us, "Quit that fighting, guys, or somebody might get hurt."

No dog to lie upon our socked, winter feet.

No dog that smells of manure and fish to argue with about having a bath.

No dog pacing around our property lines as if we lived in a castle and she were our proud protector, never mind that crooks would be greeted with the same tail-wagging welcome the Pope would get.

No chasing her tail in a dervish blur. No basking in a pool of sunshine lifting her face and closed eyes up and up to the warm light. No more wide, halitosis yawns. No ghastly flatulence to which she always said, "It's not my fault, it's what you feed me."

For these and other of the tenderest memories, thanks be to God.

## Annual Meeting

of  
First Presbyterian Church  
via zoom  
Sunday, February 14, 2021  
10 AM

If you need a link for the meeting,  
please contact the church office.

## Please Be Aware

Do not respond to any emails from Pastor Matt Matthews (churchservice5481@gmail.com). I received one in my junk mail Sunday afternoon.

This is not from Matt Matthews at First Presbyterian Church. It is an attempt to get you to either send money or gift cards.

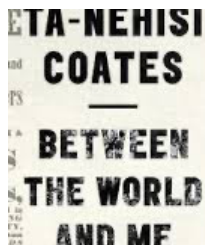
If in doubt, always contact the church office.

## Winter Book Study Together

Four Thursday Sessions

February 18, 25 and March 4, 11

11-12 on Zoom



Join **Pastor Matt**, your Compassion, Peace and Justice and Spiritual Formation Committees as we read *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Written as a letter to his son, this highly acclaimed best seller and award-winning book incorporates memoir and historical perspectives to convey the author's love and life lessons. Speaking to his then fifteen-year-old son, Coates tells what it is like to inhabit a black body and to find a way to live within it.

The book is available in print and e-book editions (152 pages). Listening to the author read the audiobook edition adds another dimension. Toni Morrison said this book is "required reading". Challenging to read/hear at times, but well worth the effort. Contact **Patty Farthing** in the Church Office to register for our study together [patty@firstpres.church](mailto:patty@firstpres.church) or 217.356.7238.

The book is available in paper, in electronic print or audio formats online or through local bookstores. Or, borrow from either of our public libraries in any of these formats. A screen adaptation can be seen on HBO. For assistance in purchasing or locating the book, contact the church office for more information.



## Staff Appreciation Month

BY COLETTA ACKERMANN

[COLETTA.ACKERMANN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:COLETTA.ACKERMANN@GMAIL.COM)

For many years, the Presbyterian Women's group held a Staff Appreciation luncheon to say thank you to the church staff who lead us, inspire us and make the church wheels turn. This year, to keep CDC guidelines in mind, PW is sponsoring a drive-by/pick-up box lunch. We knew you'd want to join us in showing our appreciation. During February, take a minute and send a personal note, card or email to someone on the staff to tell them how much their work is appreciated. Our church website has a list of staff members and names. Also, even though they're not listed, we don't want to leave out **Connor Stout** (Youth Choir Director), **Jason Pope** (Contemporary Service) and night custodians **Damen Rowell** and **Fred Foster**. You can send mail to the person in care of the church address 302 W. Church St., Champaign, Illinois 61820, or to send an email, use the person's first name and add the church's email address. For example: [bbbb@firstpres.church](mailto:bbbb@firstpres.church). Email for **Connor Stout** or our night custodians **Damen Rowell** or **Fred Foster** should be sent c/o the church office.

## The Danger of a Single Story



Wednesday Evening Zoom Meeting

February 24 at 7 PM

A Ted Talk with

Nigerian Author Chimamanda Adichie

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. When we rely on a single story or narrative, excluding cultural influences and other perspectives, we miss the rich tapestry of different experiences in the world. With humor and compassion, Adichie shares memorable

stories that illustrate the limits of a single story. Is there danger, too? Hear her stories and join the conversation. This popular TED Talk is followed by reflection and presented by Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee in collaboration with the Spiritual Formation Committee.

To join the conversation, the Zoom link will be available in Pastor Matt's Daily E-mailer on Wednesday morning, February 24. If you do not receive the daily email message, contact the church office to receive the Zoom link [zoom@firstpres.church](mailto:zoom@firstpres.church).

## Rest In Peace Medical Debt

### The Problem

Right now, about \$1.7 million dollars of medical debt is owed by people living below or near the poverty level in the 44 counties of our presbytery. This debt doesn't come from bad decisions—it comes from seeking life-saving medical care. With medical debt on their credit report, our neighbors can't get a job, rent a home, get a loan, or buy a car. Medical debt locks our neighbors into poverty.

### A Remedy

RIP Medical Debt ([ripmedicaldebt.org/](http://ripmedicaldebt.org/)) is one of several organizations started by individuals from the debt-collection field who want to forgive debt instead of collecting it. They pool money from donors to buy medical debt in large portfolios. They then contact those families and forgive their debt with no tax consequences for the donors or recipients. \$17,000 leveraged through RIP Medical Debt can wipe out much of southeastern Illinois' \$1.7 million dollars of medical debt.

### Our Response

Our presbytery has decided to demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors in a concrete way. By our May 13th presbytery meeting, we are attempting to raise \$17,000 and partner with RIP Medical Debt to wipe out most of the medical debt in southeastern Illinois. That's only about \$3.40 per member of our presbytery. By pooling our resources, we can make a huge impact on those in need in our communities and often in our own congregations.

### Join Us

You can contribute to this campaign online at the presbytery's website ([pseillinois.org](http://pseillinois.org)) by clicking the "Give

Now" button in the top-right corner or by mailing a check to:

Rev. Wade Meranda, PSEI Treasurer  
PO Box 278  
Hoopeston, IL 60942

## About Medical Debt

*66% of all US bankruptcies are tied to medical debt.*

*25% of all US credit card debt is medical debt.*

*1 in 2 Americans don't go to the doctor when they're sick because of the high costs.*

*79,000,000 Americans have to choose between paying their medical bills and basic needs like food and shelter every day.*

*2,030,686 Families have had their debt forgiven through donations to RIP Medical Debt.*

## Zoom Meetings

Thanks, again, for learning about using Zoom these past several months. A reminder to email [zoom@firstpres.church](mailto:zoom@firstpres.church) if you need a meeting set up. Also, please make sure you click on the correct link for the meeting. Meeting links will look very similar, but clicking on the wrong link can interfere with other meetings. The meeting name will be displayed when you connect, so if the meeting name isn't correct, check to make sure you have the correct link. If you have any questions about the link, email [zoom@firstpres.church](mailto:zoom@firstpres.church).



## Face to Face



Pictured above are **Jennifer Nelson and Anand Swaminathan** who recently joined First Pres by letter of transfer with baby Isaac, age one. Jennifer and Anand met working on a joint research project at Emory University. They married in 2017.

Jennifer grew up Christian influenced by her father and attended non-denominational evangelical churches and conservative Presbyterian churches before finding the PC-USA. Anand, born Hindu, was influenced by Jesuit Schools and interfaith communities. The family is happy to have found a home in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Here is their response to our Face to Face questions.

### What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

We sought a congregation which welcomed women in leadership roles and was inclusive of all groups in society. We also wanted a church where science and the interpretation of the scriptures were compatible.

### What has been the highlight of your church experience here?

That one is easy. We love JIP. Even Isaac delights in JIP. Anand likes the traditions in our worship. We also love our small group bible study, Friday

Night Lights. This group has been our connection to the people of the congregation- even on Zoom. We even baked **Gary Peterson's** Swedish tea ring. Great fun!

### Tell me about your family and your work.

Jennifer joined the University of Illinois College of Education as Assistant Professor in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership. She has a PhD in sociology. She prepares graduate students in the areas of diversity and organizational theory. Anand is the Goizueta Professor of Organization & Management in the Goizueta Business School at Emory University in Atlanta. Jennifer and Anand are both active in research and teaching on the subjects of diversity, equity and inclusion. Anand has two adult sons from his first marriage, Anthony and Nicholas. Nicholas is a data analyst at Truist in Atlanta. Anthony graduated in December 2020 majoring in economics, political science and sociology from the University of California at Berkeley and plans to pursue graduate studies in economics.

### What do you do in your free time?

We both like to travel. Jennifer: My love is long-distance running. Anand: I love to read and I am a junkie for news. I love participating in and watching the sports I played growing up in India particularly cricket and squash. I enjoy cooking and I look forward to doing so in our new church kitchen.

### What are your favorite Bible characters?

Jennifer: I love the four gospels so I guess I will say John. He was the beloved and his writing is all about love. My second is Luke because he is so complete and meticulous setting a good example for how I need to be in

my research. Anand: For me definitely Jeremiah. He was an outspoken leader as I hope to be. And he took some heat. He made decisions that lead to action even when it was difficult.

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth, Family

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR

MINDY@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### Lent

Lent begins this month on February 17. For this holy season, we invite you to focus on spiritual disciplines. We will be providing Lenten gift bags to our families with supplies and suggestions for sharing ways to be in quiet contemplation in prayer and scripture reading. We will also have the Chapel of the Education Building open for Sundays in Lent from 11 AM to 2:30 PM to enjoy a spirituality center with a walking labyrinth and quiet contemplation stations. Included with each gift bag for families with elementary aged children will be a set of Resurrection Eggs to aid in telling the story of the events of Holy Week and Easter.

We pray that this season of reflection will bless you and your household as we wait for better weather to gather outdoors and enjoy fellowship in safer conditions.

### An invitation to serve

In the vows of baptism the congregation promises to guide and nurture the children entrusted to its care by word and deed and with love and prayer. We vow to encourage them to know and follow Christ and be faithful members of his church.

Our children and their families come from Indonesia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Korea, Scotland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, as well as the United States. They all speak English, and many speak French and other languages. Families celebrate rich cultural traditions. We are thrilled

to welcome, nurture, teach, and learn from these children and their families. First Presbyterian has long been devoted to doing ministry alongside of all people.

While our children speak English, many of their parents, primarily French speakers from the Congo, struggle with conversational English. They often work two jobs, have younger children at home, and don't have the support of a wider local family network and therefore they are not able to help with their children's Sunday School education as they'd like. We endeavor to stand in the breach for and with them.

We want the best teachers and Christian leaders to join us in this vibrant ministry to the children of our community to serve as partners in the building of faith foundations for future generations.

Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to be a part of this ministry. We will be reaching out to many of you in the coming months with an invitation to serve our youngest disciples. How might you be a part of creating a better future?

## An Update on Youth Sunday School

BY SAMANTHA NICHOLS, SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

SAMANTHA@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It has been one month since I walked into First Presbyterian for my first day as Sunday School Coordinator, set off the alarm, and received a crash course in how to properly enter

the building. In the weeks since, I've learned about more than just our church's alarm system! Along with our Sunday school youth, I've learned about faithfully engaging the media, responding to peer pressure, and prayer.

Our unit on prayer will continue throughout the first couple weeks of February before we shift to other subjects including Lent, loneliness, and mental health, all of which seem particularly relevant in these challenging times. How can Lent serve as an important time of faith formation even when we continue to be physically apart? How can our faith strengthen us in times of loneliness? What does our faith teach us about caring for our emotional and mental health?

As this time of pandemic continues and is accompanied by countless other struggles, I hope Sunday school can provide a space for youth to discuss what's going on in the world and their lives, how they feel about it, and what our shared faith has to do with anything and everything. Together, we can confront these difficult days, deepen our faith, and commit to being bold disciples. Even over Zoom, we can build community!

Junior high and high school youth are invited to join us on Sundays over Zoom from 1pm to 2pm for these meaningful conversations. Our elementary school class also meets over Zoom from 10:15am to 11:15am for a Bible story, discussion, activity, and, sometimes, music!

Thanks be to God for these opportunities to learn together!

# Finance

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE

MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

### Contributions

Contributions in January to the Operating Fund were \$21.6K more than in 2020 and \$8.2K above the budget at \$81.3K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. Including all revenue sources, including \$95.9K in prepaid pledges, at 8.3% through the year we have received 19.6% of the expected year's revenue.

### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$9.4K below the budget at \$75.6K and less than in 2020 by \$18.9K. At 8.3% through the year we have experienced 7.4% of the expected year's expenses.

### Balance

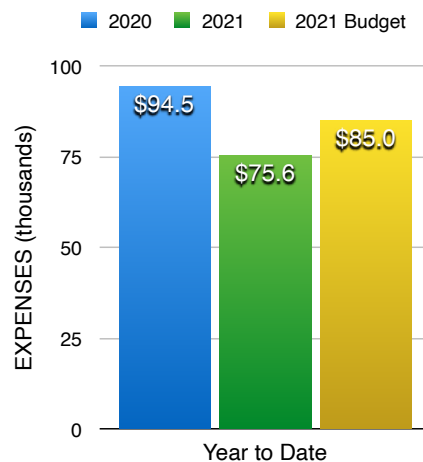
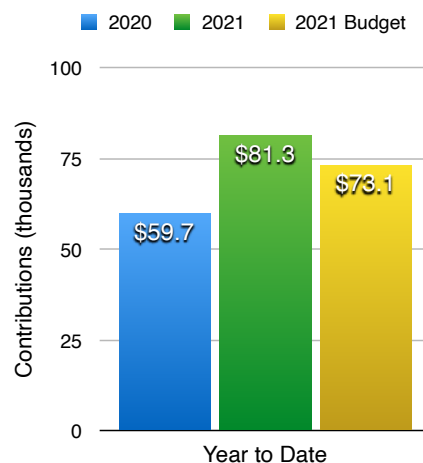
Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$116.8K which is \$6.7K less than at the end of January in 2020.

### Restricted Funds

In addition to contributions to the operating fund there was \$10,131 donated in January to special offerings and funds restricted to specific purposes such as missions supported by our church and \$21,000 to endowments.

## Stewardship

Thanks to the responses of 173 families pledging \$780,118, we have reached 95% of our projected pledge commitments for 2021. If you have not yet made your commitment please prayerfully consider your ability to support the continuation of our programs and ministry. You may respond by completing and mailing a pledge card to the church or online at: <https://www.firstpres.church/pledgecard>





Isaiah 55:8,9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

## Pray for Cuba Even As They Pray for Us

*As you probably know, Cuba is facing a second wave of coronavirus resulting in increased restrictions again as a way to protect people. The economy is in very difficult times in the midst of currency unification. Please pray for us even as we pray for you.*

- Pastor Daniel from our sister church in Cuba.

The winter has seen a brisk rise in cases and in deaths in Cuba. On January 27 Cuba reported 24,205 cases and 210 deaths. At the same time the State of Illinois reported 1,121,000 cases and 19,138 deaths.

Cuba is in the process of converting its monetary system to a single currency. The tourist industry on which Cuba depends is on pause.

## We Remember



Prayers for the family and friends of **Silvia Fonden**, of the Luyanó church, who recently passed away. Silvia was known for her dedication to the Luyanó church, to the senior meal programs, and her warm welcome was extended to many travelers to Cuba.

We remember Silvia with love, and pray for comfort and peace to her family.

## Jays & Concerns

*We extend our sympathy to...*

- to the family and friends of **Marguerite "Mike" Stallman** who died January 7, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

A **Prayer List** is sent out weekly on Tuesdays. If you know of someone who would like to be included in that week's prayers, please contact the church office.

If you would like to receive the weekly email of prayer concerns, please email [marcia@firstpres.church](mailto:marcia@firstpres.church).



# Mission Updates

## Environmental Stewardship

BY PAT PHILLIPS

P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Do you have a stash of Styrofoam? Keep on saving—from landfills and oceans.

W.F. Dart founded a company in 1937 that manufactured small plastic and steel items such as key cases and toys. In the late 1950s, they began making cups out of a new product now known as Styrofoam and became the Dart Container Corporation.

It's estimated that non-biodegradable Styrofoam can take up 30% of the space in landfills and last at least 500 years. Up to 20% of it ends up in water.

Dart paid attention to this and established collection centers for foam with the number 6 in a triangle with chasing arrows, as well as big pieces used in packaging. We're lucky to have such a center in Urbana, so let's use it.

They sell the compacted foam to manufacturers of picture frames, interior molding, pens, rulers and foam packaging,



Please start or continue saving clean Styrofoam for a collection event at church in April.

April will be a very green month, and there's much to anticipate. There will be an Adopt-a-Highway Saturday, a wonderful caring way to enjoy the outdoors. Waivers are required, and new volunteers should contact **Liz Miley** at 217-356-5402 so she can mail the

appropriate form. One must be at least 14 years old, and those under 18 need an accompanying adult.

Give some thought to ways to celebrate the 51<sup>st</sup> Earth Day on April 22, observed at church on April 25. The big finish for the month is Arbor Day on April 30.

## ESL Zoom Café Time BIG Success

Zoom Café Time with ESL students, staff and First Pres members are a big success!

We will continue this Zoom Café Time on the second Thursday of every month at 10 AM. The next ones are on the following dates:

- February 11 at 10 AM
- March 11 at 10 AM
- April 8 at 10 AM
- May 13 at 10 AM

## From the February 2 Heart of Missions

The Community Mission Deacons met last week and welcomed their new deacons on board and set their giving priorities. The big event locally on our horizon is the CU at Home One Winter Night THIS WEEK, Friday, February 5. Pay attention to the local news which is covering it and keep them in your prayers. People all around town will be sleeping in boxes to create awareness of our friends without an address. Matt and I sent a video to them in support of all they do for our community.

Our Mission Team will meet with World Mission and Community Mission Deacons for an educational zoom retreat on Feb. 9 at 4:30pm.

Keep in your prayers our friends at S.A.F.E. House. Members there have been fighting the COVID 19 virus.

If you are looking for some hands on mission work to do, the kitchen committee is looking for people to put the kitchen back together. We can hardly wait to use it! Contact **Gary Peterson**.

*The Heart of Missions Newsletter has been revived during this COVID-19 crisis. Our local and global mission agencies are having to make rapid changes due to shelter in place orders, as well as food and medical supply shortages. The newsletter helps summarize some of what has been in the mission news for our mission workers and agencies during the past week in case you missed it.*

You can access The Heart of Missions on the church website under the SERVE tab at [firstpres.church/heartofmissions](http://firstpres.church/heartofmissions)



## Cuba Partners Network

The following is a message from the General Council of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, addressed to the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding events in early January.

*... blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called daughters and sons of God, blessed are persecuted for the sake of good because the kingdom of God belongs to them.*

(Mt 5:6,10)

Dear brothers & sisters:

*"Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"*  
The Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC), through its General Council, wants to express their solidarity with this sister church, its congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and General Assembly, especially for each of its members and families as well as with the American people.

*We are writing to you to share our concern about recent events that have occurred in the United States in the wake of the presidential elections.*

*We have been following each of the events closely and have accompanied them in prayer because these actions endangered not only the American people but also the rest of the world.*

*We trust that the Churches in general and the PC(USA) in particular can help the healing of American society and to restore the historical values that*

*have characterized it.*

*We pray that the Lord of Life will empower you for this work which will help the process of reconciliation that is so needed.*

*In the love of Jesus,*

Rev. Dora Arce Valentín, Moderator  
Rev Edelberto Valdés Fleites,  
Secretary General

### Cuba Steering Committee Update

The Cuba Steering Committee has been planning the CUBA Forum, Cuba Sunday and the Two Step Dance, May 1 and May 2. Save those dates!

And, save these dates for the CPN Virtual Gathering: September 24 and 25, 2021. Those of us who attended by zoom last year saw many friends from Cuba and other parts of the United States who we know and love. Since we cannot travel, this is the next best thing.

**Frontera de Cristo** sent a new newsletter introducing their new conversations dates for February. Included was a video talking about their coffee coop – Café Justo. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9wmMSv3SoY&index=1&list=PLIF2Qii5YwBBKzsd8pneH3Y8b7I4Muhyr>

Let us keep all our mission partners in our prayers, those who are waiting to go back to their place of ministry and those who are able to work where they are. Listen for God's call to you in their ministry.

### Our PC(USA) Mission CoWorkers:

Mark Adams and Miriam Maidonado Escobar (Mexico)  
Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)  
Jeff and Christi Boyd (Central Africa)  
Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

### Our regional and global mission partners:

Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)  
Lifeline Pilots  
Marion Medical Mission  
Mission Aviation Fellowship  
Opportunity International  
Friends of Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan Presbyterian Cuba Partnership  
Special Offerings of the PC(USA)  
Theological Education Fund  
Young Adult Volunteers

### Here in Champaign – Urbana:

CU at Home  
CANAAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE  
CANTEEN RUN  
COURAGE CONNECTION  
DREAM  
eEMPTY TOMB, INC  
FAITH IN ACTION  
JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY  
THE REFUGEE CENTER  
RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY  
SALT & LIGHT

### Here at First Presbyterian Church:

FPCC Amateur Preachers  
FPCC Environmental Committee working with Faith in Place  
FPCC Presbyterian Women  
FPCC ESL  
FPCC Children, Youth and Families  
FPCC Mission Possible/Go and Serve  
FPCC Mission Team, World Mission and Community Mission Deacons



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

**P:** 217.356.7238

**F:** 217.356.7242

**E:** [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church)

[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

**Sunday:**

9 AM Worship\*

10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education\*\*

11:15 AM Worship\*

\*Due to COVID, online Worship only is available for viewing at 9 AM on Sunday mornings on YouTube, Facebook, and our church website. Go to FirstPres. Live.

\*\*All Sunday School and Adult Education opportunities are through Zoom.

Contact the church office for more information.

**Pastors:**

Matt Matthews..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext. 213  
Eric Corbin..... Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

**Staff:**

George Almasi ..... Facility Assistant  
Brendan Barker..... Organist  
Ritchie Drennen ..... Facility Manager, Ext. 237  
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211  
Robert Ferrer ..... Audio-visual Technician  
Marcia Franks ..... Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210  
Joe Grant..... Director of Music  
Rachel Matthews..... Mission Coordinator, Ext. 219  
Samantha Nichols..... Sunday School Coordinator, Ext. 216  
Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216  
Ann Petry..... Accounting, Ext. 224  
Jeanette Pyne..... ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235  
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