

The Heart of Mission

May 19, 2020



I hope you saw this past Sunday's worship at FirstPres.Live. Tracy Dace, the Executive Director of **DREAAM** (Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement in Males) had a wonderful minute for mission talking about all that DREAAM does. The picture below is of my son, John Mark Matthews, but it says so much more. He is tutoring one of our DREAAM youth on his computer. DREAAM is tutoring 48 young people right now. Their programs have not ceased due to COVID 19; they have adapted! DREAAM will be local recipient of our **Pentecost Offering** which will be May 31. Like all special offerings right now, we ask that you write **Pentecost Offering** in the "For" line on your check or go to FirstPres.live and give digitally. Thank you for all your support for the young people here and across the nation that the Pentecost Offering supports.



I shared last week that part of the **Pentecost Offering** goes to PC(USA) **Young Adult Volunteers**. I got to hear one of those recipients this week during **Frontera de Cristo's** "Coffee, Conversations and Compassion." **Frontera de Cristo** is the place of mission in Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, Mexico directed by our PC(USA) mission co-workers Mark Adams and Miriam Maidonado.

The World Mission Committee met with Mark Adams recently over zoom to get some guidance about an upcoming project. It was at his invitation to all of us that I joined Frontera de Cristo's "Coffee, Conversations and Compassion" the last two Thursdays and found it very interesting. I plan to continue. The Zoom gathering is a bilingual conversation with people from all over the United States and Mexico. The first Thursday I attended, Joca Gallegos, the FDC program coordinator discussed the Ministry of Frontera de Cristo. This past week, the three bilingual, binational interns shared their experience of living in intentional community and what it was like to be in Agua Prieta Sonora now that the Mexican border is shut down. The interns are three females, a Roman Catholic from Chiapas, a Mennonite from Illinois, and a Presbyterian,

the Young Adult Volunteer, from Ohio, Bridich, Katelyn and Hannah. They are finding it enriching to learn to use language respectfully, to learn to be flexible in community, and to be filled with hope in their future. Their goals are to live intentionally, in the present and to act on their intention. These are lessons we all can learn from because we all live in community. I will be joining the Thursday Zoom conversations at 6pm CT. If you want to join, please email office@fronteradecristo.org and they will send you an email with the Zoom link and password. The upcoming Conversations will be

May 21: Marina Forero, FDC Children Enrichment Director discusses peacebuilding through education in communities of violence.

May 28: FDC Board member Rosie Mendoza and Author Aaron Bobrow-Strain discussing *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story*.

June 4: 4th Anniversary Celebration of Café Justo y Mas

June 11: PCUSA Mission Co-workers Miriam Maidonado and Mark Adams Borders as Places of Encounter.

Right now you can purchase your own Café Justo coffee and it will also help respond to the needs of the families affected by COVID-19. I did that and sipped my coffee during the conversations. It did take a week or so to get it shipped but I felt a little like I had travelled to another country.

I hope we all will be able to travel about in the future. In the meantime, let us stay safe and stay connected.

Peace,

Rachel Matthews, Temporary Mission Coordinator
First Presbyterian Church Champaign

Announcements:

One Great Hour of Sharing Report: On Easter Sunday we took up the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. I want to report that at first the amount was low but as checks were mailed in we raised \$5129.25. I am especially grateful since just recently we received a \$5000 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (one of the offering areas of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering) that went to two of our local mission agencies: CU at Home and The Refugee Center. Thank you so much for your generosity.

CU at Home – They have extended their hours at the Phoenix drop in center beginning May 5, to provide added safety and security to our friends without an address. Their new expanded hours at the Phoenix are: Monday-Friday 9-8pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm. They are also actively looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping on the weekend evening hours. If you would like to help, send a message or call 217-979-1401 for more information!

I like to think our little bit helps with this very necessary extension of these hours. Please continue to support them financially. If you go on their Facebook page, you will find an order form for a Cu at Home T-shirt that you can order and the proceeds will help support them. I ordered two.

Prayers they have asked for

- **A close friend of the ministry whose grandmother went home to be with the Lord earlier this month?** Pray that God would continue to bring peace to this family during this difficult time.
- **All of our staff and the vital services we provide, especially the men's emergency shelter.** We have seen over 330 men utilize the shelter this season and with another extension until at least May 30th, our staff need an extra dose of encouragement and strength to make it through.
- **One of our close friends on the street who is struggling with his mental health?** We pray that God would help us have a breakthrough with this man and that he could be healthy again soon.

They give thanks to God for

- **One of our longtime friends without an address who will be moving into his own apartment in just a couple days!** After being in our housing program for over a year, he is taking the next step and we are SO proud of him!
- **Our amazing volunteers who have stepped up, and through their service, are allowing us to expand the hours of the Phoenix Daytime Drop-in Center AGAIN!** Due to the COVID-19 situation, our friends on the street can now be in our facility 9am-8pm Monday-Friday along with our extended weekend hours!
- To Jesus for one of our female friends who reached out for help several months ago and recently followed up with us to tell us how she is doing. **She said that this was her first Mother's Day sober and is so grateful for all she has in life now!**

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)

Jo Ella Holman (Caribbean and Cuba)

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 Better Together
CU at Home
CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE
CANTEEN RUN
COURAGE CONNECTION
DREAAM
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