

July 2021



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Snippets from your Pastor: A Season of Lamentation

(A sermon from June 27th drawing from Psalm 130.)

BY MATT MATTHEWS

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Psalm 130—"Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD . . ."

There was a time early during the pandemic when I began feeling heavy and numb and oddly detached from my surroundings. People would ask how I was doing. I was fine, in one sense, but I had become spiritually dull. I couldn't explain it, I said.

I found myself trying to hurry the pandemic along, to speed things up. Like you, I missed my family—my sons, distant, faraway. Like you, I had to settle for isolation, for masking, for our travel ban, for exclusion from hugs and handshakes. Like you, I had to settle for less.

Langston Hughes knew about feeling blue:

When the shoe strings break
On both your shoes
And you're in a hurry-
That's the blues.

When you go to buy a candy bar
And you've lost the dime you had-
Slipped through a hole in your pocket somewhere-
That's the blues, too, and bad!

(The Blues, Langston Hughes)

I had not lost my last dime. My shoe strings hadn't broken. But I was not settled. Something was off, out of kilter. Pandemic had turned everything sideways. "How are you doing," people would ask. I was fine, but I wasn't fine. I would ask others, "How are you doing." I often got the same response: fine. But we weren't fine. For me, I had become spiritually dull, emotionally numb. I couldn't explain it. Until some wise someone gave me a word for it. Lament.

continued on the next page

Worship Schedule

9 AM *Worship/Sanctuary*
or join us online at firstpres.live

11:15 AM *The Gathering/Chapel*
Contemporary Service
begins Sunday, July 25

Unvaccinated people must wear a mask indoors for their safety and the safety of other unvaccinated people. Vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask for safety, but may if they wish. Our Covid-19 Response Team strongly encourages all people to be vaccinated.

**Goodbye and Good Luck
to the Corbin Family**

Sunday, July 11
on the patio
immediately following 9 AM service

Lament wasn't something I was feeling, so much as it was something I needed to do.

I needed to find words for my grieving and loss. I needed to articulate the "off-ness" the "weight" the "worry" the "woe." Many of you told me how hard it was to be alone for so long. How hard it was not to see your family, how you were counting the days, how our physical isolation devolved into emotional and social isolation. Our loved ones went into the hospital; we could not visit them. Our loved ones went into physical-rehab; we could not visit them. Our loved ones died; we could not wrap ourselves into the gathered community for prayer and song and tears. The ten available spaces at the graveside were doled out in the cruelest of family lotteries. Our grandchildren went un-hugged. Our classes were taken on-line. We had virtual cocktail hours, dances, dates. You described not only a stir-craziness, but a sadness. We were all getting plenty of rest, but we were all tired. You were mourning. I was, too.

When people asked how I was doing, I began to use my friend's word: I am lamenting. That is to say I began to gather all these worries and woes and I offered them to God. This took some practice because I'm always a little afraid of burdening God. I didn't want to worry God with my concerns. But at some point, I started to let God have it. Have it in full. Have it all.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

I began to lament, freely to lament.
About the pandemic. About the news

headlines. I walked for justice with you, and I lamented our country's growing edges. Like you, I was angry, frightened, felt helpless, hapless, bereft. The lives of Black people murdered, mattered; The lives of Asian women murdered in Atlanta mattered, mattered. Immigrant lives mattered. Unemployed and laid-off lives mattered. Business owner lives mattered. All the lives mattering, mattering, mattering. Reform the police. Reform the church. Reform the heart of mine own heart. Every day, every news cast. The Covid death toll rising, rising. No end in sight. It was so hard, so tiring, such a heavy time.

And I lamented.

I lamented the burdens you shared with me. I lamented the postponed weddings and the down-sized funerals. I lamented that there were others isolated in places less secure, less comfortable, less provisioned than my place.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

Even now, as we ease out of the pandemic, my lament continues, as there are still things to lament about. I lament those brothers and sisters who have chosen not to become vaccinated. I grieve the possibility that they will get this deadly disease from which there is no cure; I grieve they put themselves, their livelihoods, and their families at undue risk. I worry they will get sick. I grieve they may die. How will I stand if called upon to officiate their funeral?

And I grieve the restless violence that grips our community. **Mindy Watts-**

Ellis worked with our DREAM kids at the summer camp which our church is helping to host. They painted over 240 doves that are installed on our church's front yard. Each dove was a prayer for peace for each of the 'shots fired' incidents that have occurred in Champaign from January of 2020 to April of 2021. I can think of over 240 reasons to lament, to find our knees, to look up, to lift up our cries to the Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

* * *

We learn from looking at psalms such as the 130th Psalm, that with lament often comes waiting.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

Lament and waiting, according to the Biblical witness, go hand in hand. Waiting. Watching. Resting in the Lord. Being patient.

The problem with waiting is that we are NOT good at it. In the age of fast food, express lanes, and instant credit-checks, we are not patient. We have grown increasingly impatient. Everything about life has gotten faster. We have lost the spiritual discipline of waiting.

Andrew Root suggests that "modernity is the constant process of speeding things up."

Technology's long-standing promise has been an easier, more leisurely, and even more meaningful life. But it hasn't worked out that way. The pace of life has accelerated, and the present is compressed—which is a way of saying that the present doesn't last as long as it used to, and keeping up car

be exhausting.”[1]
As life moves faster, we have trouble keeping up. And left behind, we have trouble waiting. But the psalmist knew about waiting.

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

* * *

I’ve gotten better at lamenting, and it has helped. I had forgotten to lament. I had forgotten about the need, spiritual and otherwise, for lament: the need to gather my worry and woe, to name it, to reflect upon it, to confront it—and to lift it up to God.

I’ve not mastered lament, but I’ve gotten better at it.

I have not gotten better at waiting. I’m still dogged by impatience. How long, O Lord? How long?

It helps me to remember that my waiting isn’t in vain. I’m not waiting just for the sake of waiting. I’m waiting for God. And with the waiting comes trust. I trust God hears my prayerful lament. I trust God answers prayer. I trust that God isn’t only worthy, God is trustworthy. God’s time may not be my time. And God’s way may not be my way. I know only part of the picture. I see only part of the story. I am always stuck in time, and often stuck in anxiety. God is not stuck. God transcends all my worry and woe. God is able where I am not able. God can do what I cannot do. I’m not waiting for nothing. I’m waiting for God.

I am waiting for God.

And while that waiting often requires

more patience than I have, my waiting is oriented in the right direction. I’m not waiting for me. I’m not waiting for you. I not waiting for the government. I’m not waiting for the church. I’m not waiting for time. I’m waiting for God.

While I’m not good at it, I know that my waiting is not in vain.

I lament. I lament. I lament.

And I wait.

Trusting God, I lament, and I wait.

AMEN

[1] *The Congregation in a Secular Age: Keeping Sacred Time against the Speed of Modern Life*, by Andrew Root, Baker press. Reviewed in the Christian Century by Anthony B. Robinson, June 2, 2021.

Lament

BY LINDA PETERSON

Monday night, June 28, I saw or heard the following in my dreams. I got up and wrote these words...Your people cry, die, mourn, pray and hope.

There was anger, they beat their chests

Your people cry

Bullets flew, the earth quaked

Your people die

They lay dead, sons and daughters no more

Your people mourn

They drop to their knees and bow low

Your people pray

Banded together, many different views

Your people have hope

**Know that you alone decide
Your people have faith
Now your people can share your love**

Slouching Toward Retirement (With apologies to WB Yeats)

BY KEN TRAVERS

*And what rough beast,
its hour come round at last,
Slouches toward Bethlehem
to be born?*

William Butler Yeats,
The Second Coming

Change does not come easily. As it flashes in my inward eye (as Wordsworth might say), I was ‘agile as a host of golden daffodils’,

*Beside the lake, beneath the trees.
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
William Wordsworth, the Daffodils.*

Ah yes, some half a century ago, I arrived from the Pacific Northwest, “God’s other country”, to attend the University of Illinois. The name ‘Urbana’, was familiar since in graduate school at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, I had heard about the international missionary conference held regularly in Urbana by Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

The Soviets are coming!

And then, in the fall of 1957, much of the world in general, and the scientific community in particular, was startled by the appearance of the Soviet Union’s Sputnik, the first artificial Earth satellite.

Scripture took on new overtones:

³⁻⁴ I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.

Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,

Why do you bother with us?

Why take a second look our way?

Psalm 8:3-4, The Message

With impressive alacrity, the U. S. Federal Government responded in the following year with the National Defense Education Act, designed to 'strengthen the national defense and to encourage the expansion and improvement of educational programs to meet critical national needs... '(Wikipedia)

Coincidentally, at UIUC University High School, under the inspired leadership of Max Beberman, together with key individuals from the Department of Mathematics and the School of Engineering, a committee was formed to review and upgrade high school mathematics. That committee, soon to be named the University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics, gained national and international attention for its pioneering work on revising and upgrading the school curriculum.

Reform initiatives were greatly accelerated as the National Science Foundation supported upgrading school mathematics and other school subjects. The nationwide school curriculum movement was underway, not only in the United States but to some extent, around the world.

The Americans are coming!

In the early 1960s, one bright and shining morning on the UBC campus word was spread that we were to be

visited by a 'curriculum reform missionary'—Max Beberman and his Illinois entourage. That visit sealed the deal for me. A few days later, as a nontenured instructor in the UBC Mathematics Department, I was summoned by the Department Head. He advised that I needed a doctorate. My response: '*Cool*' (or whatever was the appropriate grad school jargon a half century ago), where should I go? His response, either Illinois or Stanford.

And the rest, as they say, is history. After I did my doctorate at Illinois, I joined the UIUC faculty. Janny Quinn, a fellow grad student, entered our 52 year marriage. Two years later I also got to do a post doc at Stanford to follow up on effects of nationwide curriculum reform. And Stacey, our first-born, got to join the trek to Palo Alto. Upon return to Urbana, Wendy and Kelly completed the Urbana version of the Travers clan.

Subsequently, weddings and a total of seven grandchildren ensued. And only within the past few weeks was the UIUC chapter closed with the sale of our Champaign home. Bittersweet times, to be sure.

But the visitations of the inward eye prevail.

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon the inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
William Wordsworth, the Daffodils.*

Sholem Fest Is Back

Our annual congregational potluck in Centennial Park followed by the ultimate beach party at Sholem Aquatic Center is back for 2021. August 15 is the date and 6:30 PM is the time. Bring a dish to share and join the gathering. We are partnering with DREAAM this year. If you would like to participate in the planning or the execution of this popular event in the life of our congregation, please contact the church office.

International Taste

Sunday, September 19, at 4:30 PM is the time for our International Taste this year. Bring a taste of a food from your culture to share, meet people, share stories, laugh. International Taste is a part of Welcoming America Week in Champaign County. We will share Christian hospitality. Partners this year include the University YMCA and The Refugee Center. If you would like to participate in the planning or the execution of this popular event in the life of our congregation, please contact the church office.

Finance

Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE
MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

Contributions

Contributions in June to the Operating Fund were \$14.1K more than in 2020 and \$3.9K above the budget at \$75.0K. The Year to Date total is below last year by \$19.6K but above the budgeted amount by \$1.4K. 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 at 50% through the year we have received 60.7% of the expected year's revenue.

Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$31.7K above the budget at \$554.9K and more than in 2020 by \$29.8K. At 50% through the year we have experienced 53% of the expected year's expenses.

Balance

Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$106.3K which is \$89.1K less than at the end of June in 2020.

Restricted Funds

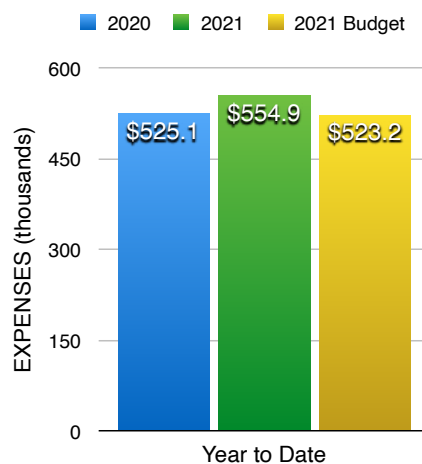
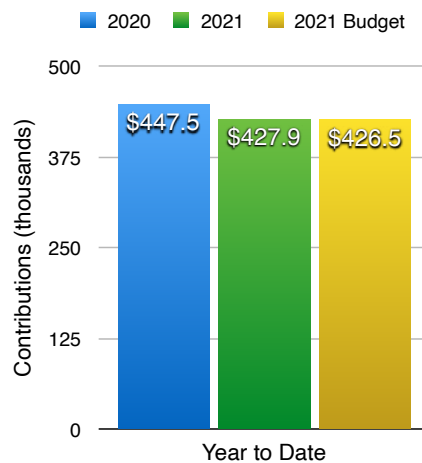
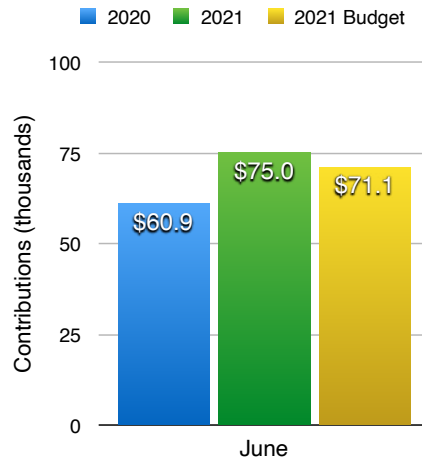
In addition to contributions to the operating fund there was \$1,485 donated last month to special offerings and funds restricted to specific purposes such as missions supported by our church.

Covid Response Team Recommendations...

Session has endorsed the following recommendations from the Covid Response Team's July 6, 2021 meeting.

- Unvaccinated people must wear a mask indoors for their safety and the safety of other unvaccinated people. Vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask for safety, but may if they wish. Our Covid-19 Response Team strongly encourages all people to be vaccinated.
- Our choir and singers may sing without a mask (so long as they are vaccinated) throughout our services of worship.
- For now, the congregation may sing a closing hymn through the summer. (We want to see how the Delta and Delta-Plus variants affect our local population.)
- Until such time as a vaccine is available for children, and because we take our baptismal vows seriously, we will not allow sit-down, indoor, congregational meals for unvaccinated persons. Sit-down, indoor, congregational meals for vaccinated persons are fine. Those who have not been vaccinated, including children who have not been vaccinated, cannot gather for indoor meals for their safety. (Covid-19 is a deadly disease for which we have no cure.) Outdoor congregational dining is fine for all people.

The Covid-19 Response Team is concerned that our flock and guests remain safe. We strongly encourage all persons to get vaccinated.



Children, Youth & Family

Children, Youth, Family

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR
MINDY@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Summer programming!

Summer programming will begin Sundays July 11- August 1 at Hessel Park in the east shelters from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. We will have an intergenerational program based on the parable of the sower. There will be box lunches, the Bible story, songs, and activities.

Make it a picnic outing for the whole family! Stay for ice cream at Jarlings or for splash play in the water features. Register online at firstpres.church/seedsregistration [Sowing Spiritual Seeds Registration!](#)

Come enjoy the 'DREAMS of Peace' art installation at the corner of Church and State streets. The young artists of the DREAM summer program painted a dove for each 'shots fired' incident in Champaign from January of 2020 to April of 2021. That is over 240 doves. Join your prayers with those of the children that peace will come to Champaign and end gun violence in our community.

Looking ahead to summer of 2022! July 24-27, 2022 will be the next Presbyterian Church USA Youth Triennium in Indianapolis, IN. This is a national gathering of youth from all over the US and delegates from Presbyterian churches in other countries with lively worship, fellowship fun, and chances to meet other christian youth and plan together how to affect change in the world! You must be a high school aged student to participate. We will be taking registrations in late fall, and be-

ginning our fundraising, so talk to your parents about this great opportunity.

For more information go to <https://presbyterianyouthtriennim.org>
[Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#)

Sunday School Update

BY SAMANTHA NICHOLS, SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR
SAMANTHA@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Teachers and Classroom Helpers Needed!

The past few meetings of the Children, Youth, and Family Committee have inspired me to reflect on these verses from 1 Corinthians:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

As we prepare for another year of Sunday School, this wonderful committee has been especially focused on inviting people to contribute to our program by teaching, assisting teachers, and helping with special events. As someone new to this congregation, I have enjoyed learning about the many different gifts you all possess and ways you all have served.

With this verse in mind, I invite you to consider your own gifts and how the Spirit is leading you to serve our faith community. Perhaps this is the year you'll step into a teaching role! Teachers play such an important role

in creating safe spaces where children and youth feel comfortable expressing their faith and doubts. Maybe you feel called to serve as a classroom helper, another role that is critical to the success of our Sunday School program. In addition to offering your gifts, serving the Sunday School program is an opportunity to witness the gifts of our children and youth! I have no doubt that our teachers and helpers will not only teach our students, but learn from them as well.

I am thankful to those who have already committed their time and energy to serving as teachers and helpers for the upcoming school year. We still have openings for each grade range (preschool - kindergarten; 1st - 3rd; 4th - 5th; Middle School; High School).

Without a doubt, you have gifts to offer this congregation and the broader community. I hope and pray that some of you will discern that these gifts are a great match for supporting our Sunday School program and other CYF ministries. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions about what it means to get involved with the Sunday School program at First Presbyterian!

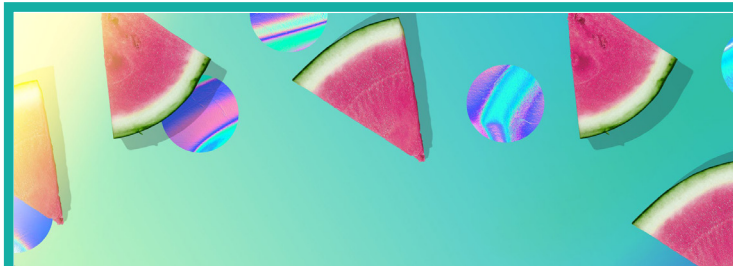


Prayer is meant to be the conversation where your life and your God meet. Does prayer make a difference? Our Lord is personal.

2 Corinthians 6:18 I will be a father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love towards us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.



Immigrant Back-to-School Resource Fair
A Fun Free Family Event

Crystal Lake Park
by the Anita Purves Nature Center

Saturday, July 31
1 to 5 PM

Kona Ice and Maize Mexican Grill
will provide free food to attendees

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department is hosting the pop-up vaccine clinic for those (ages 12+) who have yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

First Pres ESL program
is helping organize and sponsor the event.

Joys & Concerns

Sympathy...

- **Linda Wilson**, who has been a member of the church since February 2003, died June 12, 2021.
- **Vivian Angular**, a Luyano friend, passed away.

Good Luck...

- **Associate Pastor Eric Corbin and family** as they move to a new calling at First Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, IL.

A **Prayer List** is sent out weekly on Tuesdays. If you know of someone who would like to be included in prayers, contact the church office. If you would like to receive the weekly email of prayer concerns, email marcia@firstpres.church.

Men's Prayer Group

The men of the church pray Mondays at 8 AM. For a zoom link contact our church office.

Mission Updates

The Heart of Missions Newsletter has been revived. Our local and global mission agencies have made changes due to COVID restrictions, 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



Community Mission's 2021 Raindrop Project supports the ministry of Canaan Men's SAFE House (Substance Abuse Safe Environment). This year we want to support their life skills training and development with the purchase of four or five Chromebooks, software, security safeguards and library books to support their self-education.

No single raindrop amounts to much. And yet all the raindrops taken together can make a big difference. Choose any amount. Our small amounts of giving added together will help fund the entire project.

You can give either through check or online giving. [Click here to give online.](#)

Please write the check to First Presbyterian Church, indicate "Raindrop" on your check or online giving information line.

From the "Green Team"

BY PAT PHILLIPS
P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET

There's a free online 30 minute film on rural perspectives on climate change called *Other Side of the Hill*. Registration begins July 1, and viewing is

available any time between July 10 and 25.

Blistering heat and drought and flooding—how are folks coping?
firstpres.church/interfaithpowerandlight

Reminder...Saturday, July 10 is the day for Adopt-a-Highway pickup at 8 AM and Styrofoam drop off in Doxology Lane from 9 -11 AM.

ESL Program

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL DIRECTOR
JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Immigrant Back-to-School Resource Fair

Earlier in the year, **Samantha Nichols**, our Sunday School Coordinator, was able to secure a small grant to work towards increasing vaccination rates among the immigrant population in CU. As you may know, immigrant vaccination rates are lower than the general population. This is due to many factors including language barriers, obstacles to easily access vaccines, and misconceptions about them. As a result of conversations and consultations with the public health department and immigrant service organizations, what started out as a small grant from the Interfaith Youth Core to address vaccine hesitancy has burgeoned into the Immigrant Back-to-School Resource Fair.

Now, we—the First Pres ESL Program and First Presbyterian Church in Champaign—are partnering with other immigrant services organizations to not only address vaccine hesitancy through testimonials and translation

Raindrop Project 2021

Canaan Men's SAFE House

BY RACHEL MATTHEWS, MISSION COORDINATOR
RACHEL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Raindrop Project is a special congregational offering which happens every July at First Presbyterian Church Champaign. On odd years, our Community Mission Deacons chooses the recipients and on even years, World Mission chooses. We typically have a bulletin board set up in Westminster Hall with raindrops on it that represent different monetary amounts. Congregational members can choose a raindrop amount to give that will go toward meeting the goals of the entire Raindrop Project. Volunteers from the committee staff a table on Sunday mornings to take donations and then they give the donations to office staff in an envelope labeled "Raindrop Offering." We are encouraging online giving and giving directly to the office this year. After the offering is over at the end of July, the total is tallied by the bookkeeper who in turn sends the total to the recipient.

services, but also to provide vaccines through a pop-up vaccine clinic, free food, and free school supplies to address the material concerns within the immigrant community. Furthermore, organizations that are pertinent to immigrants will be invited to table at the event for immigrants and their families to go up and ask questions, seek help and get to know people who could assist them.

The Immigrant Back-to-School Resource Fair will be at Crystal Lake Park by the Anita Purves Nature Center on Saturday, July 31, from 1 to 5 PM. Kona Ice and Maize Mexican Grill will be providing free food to attendees. The Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department is hosting the pop-up vaccine clinic for those (ages 12+) who have yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19. This fun, free, and family-friendly event is being organized by several organizations including the First Pres ESL Program, The New American Welcome Center, The Refugee Center, Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana, Champaign County Healthcare Consumers, Pixan Konob', and Urbana Park District.

Samantha and I are very excited to be organizing this event and hope that you would consider volunteering to serve our immigrant community and show them love and compassion by helping us on the day of the event. We are in need of volunteers to help make the event go smoothly. If you are interested, please email jeanette@firstpres.church.

World Missions Supports India COVID Relief

BY ANN STOUT
MRSAS2003@GMAIL.COM

The news stories coming out of India in the last several weeks have been heartbreaking. As of late May, there were over 27 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 and over 311,000 deaths. One of our mission partners, Opportunity International, quickly departed from their usual ministry, microfinance, and used their resources to put Covid relief strategies into place. In order to assist in this effort, the World Missions Committee resolved to send OI \$1,000.00 to use in their India Covid relief ministry. Below are some excerpts about this ministry taken from an article written by Atul Tandon, the CEO of OI, in the "nextbillion.net" web site.

"It's a crisis that has escalated dramatically over the past several weeks, and one that is disproportionately impacting those who were already vulnerable — rural communities, families without access to quality healthcare, people who struggle to put food on the table, and those living in poverty.

We are meeting families' immediate needs by leveraging our skills, experience, relationships and network of local microfinance institutions. In India right now, our top COVID-19 response priorities include working to prevent infections and hospitalizations, helping sick and exposed families manage symptoms, making telemedicine available to as many families as possible, helping relieve the pressure on the overburdened healthcare system, and facilitating the distribution of vaccines when they become available. To support these goals, our microfinance partners have helped mobilize 2,340 community health workers to nearly 1,000 villages.

....One of the most innovative strategies our team in India is implementing involves transforming our network of offices — traditionally used for financial transactions — into emergency response and triage centers. Opportunity staff and community leaders are using the available computers and phones in these offices to help patients connect to telehealth services. And with support from donors and partners around the world, we are also setting up basic care beds and oxygen.

....And we are working through our existing networks to provide food and supplies to the most vulnerable clients so that they can isolate at home, instead of having to make the impossible choice between staying safe and feeding their family."



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

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Sunday:

9 AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel

Online Worship is also available at 9 AM on Sunday mornings thru 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

Staff:

George Almasi Facility Assistant
Brendan Barker..... Organist
Ritchie DrennenFacility Manager, Ext. 237
Patty Farthing.....Receptionist, Ext. 211
Robert FerrerAudio-visual Technician
Marcia Franks Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210
Joe Grant..... Director of Music
Sam Haupt Director Contemporary Worship Band
Rachel Matthews Mission Coordinator/Parish Associate, Ext. 219
Samantha Nichols.....Sunday School Coordinator, Ext. 216
Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216
Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224
Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Director, Ext. 235
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All staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by @firstpres.church. For example, eric@firstpres.church.

The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month's edition. Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.