

September 2020



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## Be Challenged and Grow!

BY MATT MATTHEWS

MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

You are invited to a congregation-wide book study on race.

- **WHAT?** *White Fragility: Why Is It So Hard for White People to Talk about Race?* by Robin DiAngelo (Beacon Press, 2018).
- **WHEN?** The study begins on the week of September 14 (either on Monday night at 7:00, or Thursdays at 11 a.m.).
- **HOW?** Sign up by emailing or calling Patty Farthing in the church office. We will meet on-line via Zoom. 217.356.7238 / [Patty@firstpres.church](mailto:Patty@firstpres.church)
- **WHO?** Everyone in our congregation and community is invited. Pastor Matt Matthews will facilitate. Our Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee will host.
- **WHY?** Having conversations about race may open us to whole new ways of being a “neighbor” and give us ideas about how we can help heal the divisions that divide our nation along racial lines.

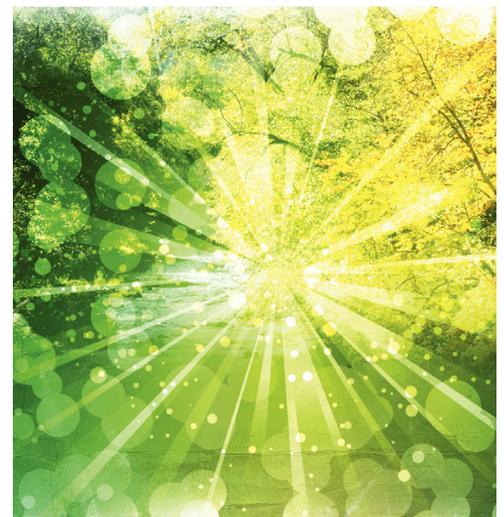
A twenty-minute video, *Deconstructing White Privilege* with Dr. Robin DiAngelo produced by the United Methodist Church, introduces the author and some basic concepts about white fragility. View it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mzj0cVLOQ>

I'm eager to be challenged by this book and by our conversations around it. I have a lot to learn about race, about myself, and about our complicated, beautiful human family. I'm eager to grow. Join us!

Those who have studied the book say this:

- It is not a fluff book.
- It is thought provoking.
- There will be uncomfortable parts.
- It will challenge us to think about things we'd rather not think about.
- It is a journey of learning and awareness. I became aware of little things in daily life I never noticed before.
- It gives an understanding of our white culture I never had before.
- It is an opportunity to consider cultural blind spots that might inhibit how fully we live out Christ's call on our lives as His disciples.

Together we can identify and practice ways to build our capacity to listen and to speak about race, faith and justice in a manner that builds up the Body of Christ.



## Sunday in the Park

The Nurture Committee invites you to

### Hessel Park

11 AM September 13

Bring your lawn chairs and  
let's gather for an hour  
near the Pavilion

at the north end of the park.

The committee will be available to guide  
you to our spot and provide a safe location  
following social distancing, sanitation and  
guidelines such as wearing masks.

## Employee Highlights

BY ANN WEBBINK, HUMAN RESOURCES  
ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

This month the HR team is highlighting two more members, **Fred Foster** and **Robert Ferrer**, of our amazing staff here at First Presbyterian Church.

### Fred Foster

Fred is a member of our custodial staff at the church. He has been here for three years and we often see him in the background, making sure everything is set up for meetings, memorial receptions, and ESL, to name a few. He has responsibilities both in the church and educational buildings.

Fred is from a large family consisting of ten siblings and a 93 year old mother who lives in Decatur. Fred is able to visit his mother but she no longer travels to see him. He has six children, three of whom live in Texas, two in Georgia and one daughter here in town. In fact, we were able to witness Fred and his daughter, Jalisa, baptized by Pastor Matt during the online services. Sadly, Fred's partner of twenty seven years, Gwendolyn, passed away last Thanksgiving.

Fred's favorite hobby is mechanics. He worked as a mechanic for 43 years in Decatur and it is still what he really enjoys doing. However, he says that some jobs are not as physically easy as they used to be when he was younger. He has recently worked on vehicles for Canaan Baptist while here in CU.

Fred likes all kinds of music and loves butter pecan ice cream. Cookies and donuts are favorites but cake is not necessarily high on his list of favorite foods. One of his favorite memories is a trip to the Bahamas with his siblings, daughter and nephews.

Fred is a great guy, always willing to help. In fact, he says that he really likes helping people and that is why he stayed with automotive repair for so long. Be sure to say hi to Fred when we are all back

together and thank him for all he does for the church.

### Robert Ferrer

Robert has been a member of the tech team here since 2017. His responsibilities include setting up the audio visual equipment, troubleshooting, and finding volunteers for the tech team. He has three master's degrees: in educational technology and structural design, information science and computer science. He worked at the University of Illinois as an administrator for the engineering library for 25 years before retiring. While there he maintained servers and work stations and was responsible for the system used in the information and conference rooms there.

Robert's big news this year is that he married Patricia on July 5<sup>th</sup> in a zoom wedding from Sinai Temple. Patricia is from Rio de Janeiro and the two met in New York City in 2018. They were particularly grateful for the number of First Pres members who attended the zoom wedding. They feel lucky that there were 153 people participating on the call.

Robert has three adult children. His oldest son is married and living in San Diego and works at Sony PlayStation. His two youngest are twins. His daughter works in the business end of theater in NYC and his son just finished a Fulbright Fellowship in New Zealand and will begin work on a doctorate in Political Science at UCLA. Robert said he is very proud of his children but what stands out most is that they all have a good heart.

Robert lists electronics as his main hobby and his favorite vacation is to go to New York City. He enjoys seeing his family and friends that he grew up with there. He has no favorite dessert and claims that he's an equal opportunity dessert fan. But he is an unadulterated Bob Dylan fan, even using some Dylan song lyrics in his wedding to Patricia. "You breathe on me a truth each day and make my life a richer one to live..."

Robert thinks of himself as one of the last Renaissance Men. He enjoys studying theology, science and contemporary issues. He has substituted at the temple for the Rabbi when he was absent, even preaching at times. He would like to offer a course on the Talmud at our church when we all are able to get back together. He believes that the dignity of human life takes precedence over everything else.

Robert truly enjoys being a part of the team at First Presbyterian and especially appreciates Matt and the care that he is showing for the church during this time of Covid. Please take a moment after the service to greet Robert at the back of the sanctuary when he has finished his tech duties. And hopefully, we will all be able to meet him and Patricia, when we all return together.

## Welcome our New Organist

BY JOE GRANT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
JOEGRANT@ILLINOIS.EDU

The organist search team and HR committee are pleased to announce that **Brendan Barker** has been hired as our new organist. Brendan is a very accomplished musician, having served churches in the Pittsburgh area as both organist and music director. Most recently he served as the tenor section leader for our neighbor church, Emmanuel Episcopal. Brendan is in his second year as a doctoral student in choral music and conducting.

Many thanks to the other members of the search committee: **Ann Webbink** and **Karin Vermillion**, co-chairs and **Mike Havey**.

## Sunday School Coordinator Needed

BY JULIE YOUNG, CYFSEARCH TEAM  
JULIE.A.YOUNG@COMCAST.NET

Position: Sunday School Coordinator  
First Presbyterian Church Champaign

This job description reflects the position as it was, and hopefully will be, following the interruption of life by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, a small team of clergy, musicians and tech personnel meet weekly to record the Sunday service which is streamed via our website, YouTube and Facebook on Sunday mornings. During the recording sessions every precaution is taken to maintain social distancing, using masks and following all recommended safety procedures.

The Sunday School Coordinator will assist and support the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries in carrying out the ministry's mission: To serve as partners in the building of faith foundations for future generations by developing culturally sensitive reformed Christian programming for the community.

**Primary Job:**

Assist the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry in providing leadership for Children's Ministry (aged birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade), Youth Ministry (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades), and Family Ministry programs.

**Job Specific Responsibilities:**

- Assist the Director in training and equipping adult volunteers through workshops, providing hands-on experiences, and one-to-one mentoring.
- Communicate about the Sunday school program with the congregation, specifically parents and youth, through the church newsletter, the church website, social media, texts and other means.
- Attend CYFM team meetings, staff meetings, and other meetings as requested by the Director.
- Keep regularly scheduled weekday office hours to manage paperwork, phone calls and to provide an opportunity for meetings and consultation.
- Coordinate the Sunday morning education program for preschool through 12th grade. Schedule volunteers and obtain supplies needed.
- Be present Sunday mornings to help run the education program.
- Assist in the coordination of vacation Bible school in the summer.

- Assist in planning and implementing "easy entry" events for inviting new children and youth to the church.
- Other duties as assigned

**Qualifications:**

- Demonstrates a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Experience in Christian education
- Ability to recruit, organize and equip volunteers
- Leadership experience and ability to take initiative
- Experience with social media and computer software
- Interest or experience in working with culturally diverse groups
- Being bi-lingual in English and French would be a plus.

Part time, 20 hours per week, salaried position. Position reports to the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume and three references to [cyfsearch@firstpres.church](mailto:cyfsearch@firstpres.church)

**New In Our Office  
DREAAAM Staff**



Hello First Pres! I am so excited to introduce myself to you all. My name is **Jacqueline Jasek**, and I am honored to be the new Director of Donor Relations for DREAAAM. After falling in love here in Champaign and then falling in love with this welcoming and fun community, I chose to move here from Chicago...conveniently right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. [For the last 15 years, I have worked as a science editor for World

Book Encyclopedia. You may remember that name as the original "Google!" ;) I also was the Team Leader and Fundraising Chair for an awesome organization called Back on My Feet, which uses the power of running to combat homelessness, along with community support and essential housing and employment resources.]

I come to DREAAAM with a passion for networking and relationship building, strong writing skills, and non-profit experience. I firmly believe in DREAAAM's mission to reach, teach, and empower boys and young men who face tough odds. I am in awe of what DREAAAM has already accomplished in its first five years and greatly look forward to seeing our DREAAAMers and their families continue to dream big and make those dreams come true.

I know you all at First Pres have been huge supporters of DREAAAM, and I thank you immensely for that! I ask for your continued support in whatever way that may be, whether that's keeping DREAAAM in your thoughts and prayers, volunteering, or through a gift. Know that you're appreciated and helping our DREAAAMers dream their dreams onward!

Blessings,  
Jacqueline

P.S. Please stop by when you're in the office and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet you! Currently, you can find me in the office (just west of Tracy's) on Tuesday mornings.

## Compassion, Peace and Justice (CPJ)

BY RITCHELL YAU, CHAIR  
RYCONNECTSEND@GMAIL.COM

CPJ welcomed two new members and continued to meet this summer over Zoom. We recently finished reading *He Calls Me Friend* by John M. Perkins. We look forward to participating in the weekly study of the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo that **Pastor Matt Matthews** will lead mid-September through mid-October. Some of us have read and discussed the book before, but agree it is well worth revisiting. We hope you will consider participating in discussion of this book, too, even if you have read it previously.

CPJ welcomes new members. Meeting dates and times are decided by the group. Currently, we meet weekly 11 AM- Noon on Thursdays via Zoom. More information is available on the Church website. Click on the "Connect" button at the top of the homepage and scroll down to the Compassion, Peace and Justice. You can also contact the Church Office for more information. 356-7238 or info@firstpres.church

## Progress on Kitchen Remodel

BY TIM YOUNG, CHAIR  
JULIE.TIM@COMCAST.NET

Progress continues on the kitchen remodel! Major work was completed in spring and early summer with plumbing, floor drains, and a much larger grease pit than before.

Construction for the wall openings to Centennial Hall for serving and dish return are nearing completion.

Considerable work on the kitchen floor



has taken place throughout the remodeling, and was recently prepped and coated with a concrete primer and sealer.

Major ductwork on the ceiling is taking place currently for the air return units and hood. Wall and ceiling construction is also being performed as room and time permit.

These are just a sampling of the tasks that have taken place since the start of the remodeling project.

Considering the current state of affairs under a pandemic, the progress that's occurred thus far has been impressive.



Please continue to pray for the safety and well-being of our contractors and facilities staff as they forge ahead to complete our kitchen remodeling project this fall.

Many thanks to...  
**Gary Burgett**  
**Gary Peterson**  
**Joanne Walther**  
**Ritchie Drennen**  
**Tim Young**

The custom oven and stove hood has been installed. Major effort went into its design (and associated ductwork) by literally all of our contractors due to clearance issues with one of the main I-beam supports on the ceiling.

Two air conditioning units are being installed and the makeup air return units and compressors will be mounted outside on concrete pads.



## Nurture Committee

BY GARY PETERSON, CHAIR

AMER\_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM

With 7.5 billion people in the world, it sure doesn't feel lonely. People are everywhere! Even so, it's easy to get so wrapped up in our own lives that we don't take the time to really get to see and know others. Covid has slowed down our abilities to meet, but shouldn't stop us from having authentic community. Our church community has a strong commitment to one another and a strong generosity of meeting each need. We need not only physical, but mental and spiritual contact. Therefore...

### “SUNDAY IN THE PARK”

The Nurture Committee invites you to gather in Hessel Park on September 13 (Grandparents Day). God didn't intend for us to live in isolation. He specifically designed us to have relationships with each other. Therefore, bring your lawn chairs and let's gather for an hour at 11 AM near the Pavilion at the north end of the park. The committee will be available to guide you to our location and provide a safe location following social distancing, sanitation and guidelines such as wearing masks.

*Galatians 6:2 NIV* – Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ

*Psalms 133:1 NIV* – How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

*Matthew 18:20 NIV* – “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

*Romans 12:4-5 NIV* – For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

## Sign Up For Zoom Dessert Gatherings

We miss our 7,8 or 9 dinners!! Therefore, we are giving you the opportunity to have Zoom dessert gatherings. If you would be interested in joining this group and chatting with your fellow FPC friends, please email **Gary Peterson** at [amer\\_swede@yahoo.com](mailto:amer_swede@yahoo.com) or call him at 217-398-8504.

## Daily Devotion

Su Voz meaning “His Voice”, is a brief free daily devotion emailed each morning. It is written by the people of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. To subscribe or unsubscribe, contact Marcia in our church office.

## Letter Writing Ministry

Our Nurturing Committee invites you to think regularly of someone in our church family who would value a kind word of condolence, congratulations or just a friendly “Hello”. You are also welcome to join our letter writing ministry which helps coordinate these communications. We try to be in touch with those who are mourning, ill, incarcerated and celebrating. Our Nurturing Committee is moderated by **Greg Cozad**.

## Easy English Fellowship

Easy English Fellowship is a sixty minute worship time for English learners. It follows our Sunday congregational worship through Zoom. We use easy English in reading scripture, in prayer and in song and work in some conversation, reading and listening activities as well. Easy English is part of the Parkland College Project Read initiative for adult literacy and functions as a Christ Care small group within our congregation. Paty Kamenga and Bob Kirby facilitate.

## International Friendships Inc

Have you ever been in a strange place hoping to find a trusted friend? International students arriving at our University of Illinois find themselves in a very strange place. They value the support of American friends. They are usually very curious about life in America.

International Friendships Inc, matches local Christians with international students to share their lives. Meet someone at the airport and drive them to their dorm. Be a conversation partner through a regular meeting with one or more students to share stories. Provide living space short term with a student awaiting a new lease. Host a student by providing a meal once a month and being available by phone. Lead a Friday evening Bible study group. Join a group for a visit to a park, a historical or recreational site. Make friends and invite them to church. Observe current public health guidelines.

Information for Students:

<http://uiuc.ifiusa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/08/International-Friends-Flyer-Final-Proof-8-12-20.pdf>

Opportunities to Volunteer: <https://uiuc.ifiusa.org/>

Apply to volunteer here: [cu.ifipartners.org](http://cu.ifipartners.org)

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

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

I would like to get some families together that live in the general vicinity of one another at neighborhood parks for some social distancing fellowship. If you are interested in being a “host” for such a gathering, please contact Mindy at [mindy@firstpres.church](mailto:mindy@firstpres.church). Of course, this is weather dependent, and will be outdoor only with masks worn. Hosts will be asked to serve as the contact hub for a small group of families to figure out a date and time that works for the majority to gather. No more than four families will be in any group to keep numbers minimal for COVID precautions.

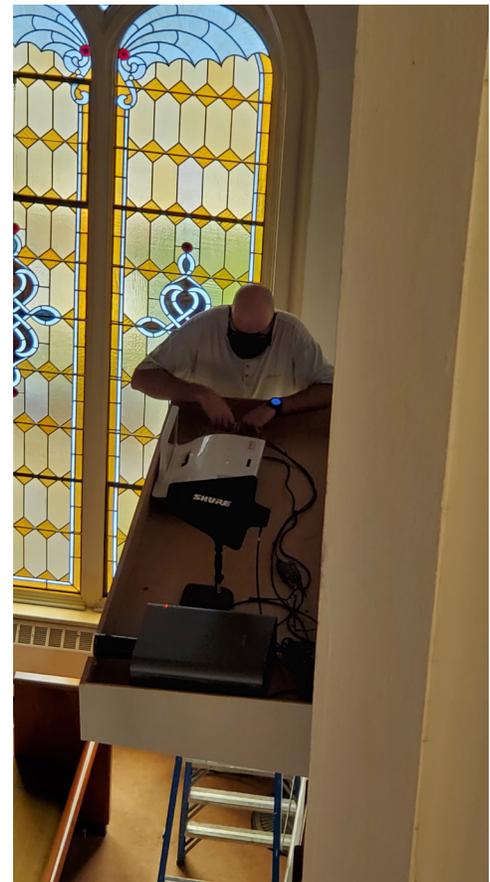
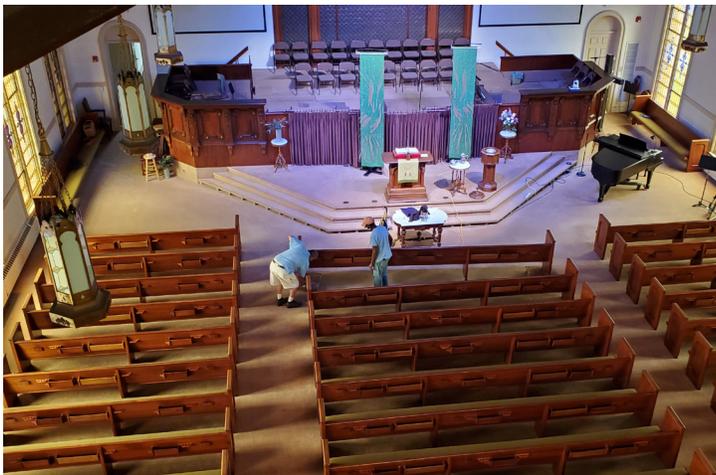
We will be offering a way to connect with your fellow Sunday School disciples in Christ online, but we won’t begin until September 20<sup>th</sup> to let you get more settled into your new routines. There will be a time slot for Elementary students from 10:15-11:15 AM on Sundays and a time for Middle School and High School students at 1-2 PM Sundays. Please use the link to fill out a registration form so we know how many of you would like to participate in online Zoom Sunday School gatherings and the Children’s choir recording group. [firstpres.church/Sundayschoolregistration](https://firstpres.church/Sundayschoolregistration)

Mr. Connor is preparing to help you become a “virtual” children’s choir! Sometimes a Zoom Sunday school slot will be dedicated to those wanting to learn a song. Mr. Connor will play and sing and

have each of you give it a try with his help. Mr. Connor will make a recording of a song with accompaniment and send it to those of you who would like to be part of the children’s choir recording group. When you receive the recording, you will listen to it through ear buds and sing along to practice. When you feel confident that you have learned your part, Mr. Connor will help you learn how to make a recording of yourself singing it. Once all singers have recorded their parts and sent them to Mr. Connor, he will compile them into one video in which all of your voices will be joined together! We look forward to creating beautiful music with you!!

Whether we have in-person worship or not, it takes a village to get ready for each week’s recording for Sunday worship.

Below George and Ritchie move and clean pews while to the right Eric works on a projector. Note Eric wearing his mask even when at top of a ladder in the Sanctuary!



# Finance

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE  
MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

### Contributions

Contributions in August to the Operating Fund were \$26.6K less than in 2019 and \$37.3K below the budget at \$40.2K. The Year to Date total is below last year by \$25.9K and below the budgeted amount by \$55.3K. 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, at 66.7% through the year, we have received 79.5% of the expected 2020 revenue.

### Expenses

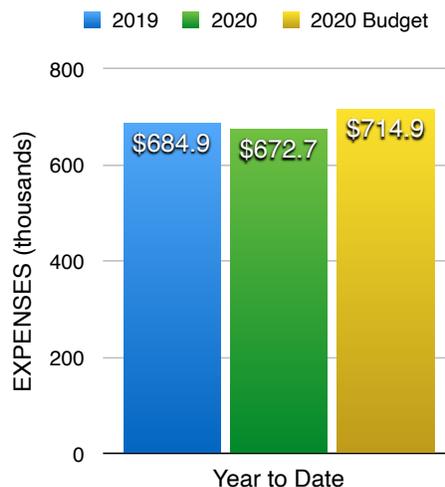
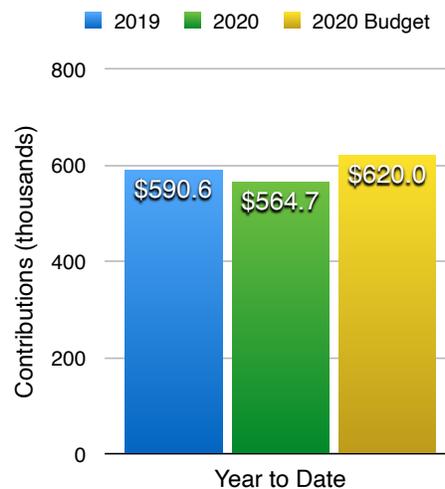
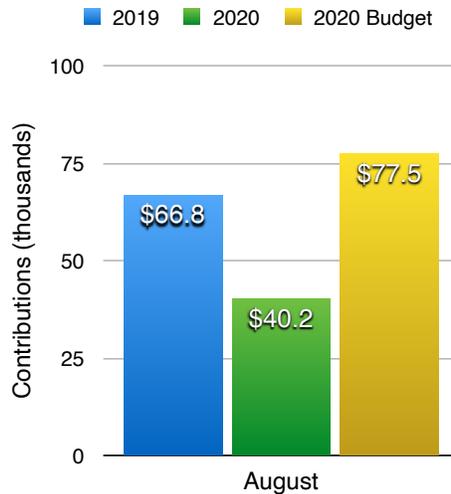
Year to Date expenses are \$42.2K below the budget at \$672.7K and less than in 2019 by \$12.2K. At 66.7% through the year we have experienced 62.7% of the expected 2020 expenses.

### Balance

Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$149.5K which is \$146.5K better than at the end of August in 2019. This figure includes \$61.9K more in prepaid pledges than in 2019 and \$134.2K from the Federal Paycheck Protection Program established by the Federal CARES Act.

### Restricted Funds

In addition to contributions to the operating fund there was \$7,095 donated in August to funds restricted to specific purposes such as the Raindrop Project and other missions supported by our church.



As we wrap our series of your answers to our question "What are you most grateful for at First Pres", here are some of the responses from our youth...

- I love God
- Music
- Preachings
- I love to learn at Sunday School
- I like how we gave away food
- I love church because we learn about God and I love Sunday School because of guests
- I just like everythings. I like the way they sing and I like the way too they gave the food
- I love Sunday School when we have guests, we have different SNACKS



EVENING PRAYER

Review: where I saw God  
 Reflect: what can I do better?  
 Rejoice: awareness of God  
 Recommit: trust God for tomorrow  
 Resolve: to live with peace of mind; I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, Lord make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

*Dear Friends,*

*On behalf of my family, I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your comforting cards and letters following the recent death of my husband, Dave. I have been lifted in body and spirit by your prayers and your loving kindness.*

*It has been a great joy for me to be part of our Presbyterian Congregation as well as having children with high-tech ability to guide me wade through a stack of paperwork! Blessings to everyone.*

*Hugs with Much Love,*

*Kathy Kinser*

*Joys & Concerns*

*Congratulations to...*

- our **Green Team (Environmental Stewardship Committee)** who will be awarded the Central Illinois Green Team of the Year Award at the 2020 Green Team Summit on Wednesday, September 16.

*We extend our sympathy to...*

- the family and friends of **Kathy Kinser** whose husband, David, died August 22, 2020.
- the family and friends of **Philip Marty** who died recently. Arrangements are pending.

Session Motions Passed at August Meeting

- Approved lowering congregational meeting quorum to 5 percent.
- Approved bid proposal from Wingle Construction Inc for complete repair of the main east-facing exterior church door.
- Approved entering into the minutes of the Session the statement: Despite our best efforts, it is possible we did not have an official quorum at our congregational meeting on August 16, 2020 called for the purpose of electing two persons to fill unexpired terms. We had between 59-64 persons (of the needed 68). The Session does not overlook this possible anomaly and hopes grace abounds during this season of pandemic. It is possible that some had trouble signing on. Typically, having a quorum is never a problem for our flock. The meeting was duly called with ample notice, the business was routine, and the votes unanimous.

# Mission Updates

## ESL News

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL COORDINATOR  
 JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### Online ESL Classes

We hit the ground running with the beginning of the fall semester on August 24. We have 15 tutors and 66 students registered, which are great numbers for a fully online program. Each tutor is teaching a small cohort of students, so there are 15 sections. We are currently working through the Education and Small Talk units and will begin the Community and Housing Units in October. Though this has been a bit of a learning curve for some of the tutors and students, they have all risen to the challenge of online teaching and learning.

We are able to offer classes in the mornings, afternoons and evenings depending on the tutors' and students' availability. For example, **Kathy Schoeffmann**, a regular veteran tutor, teaches a group of Red students from 10 to 11:30am on Mondays and Wednesdays, and **Ron Baker**, also a regular veteran tutor, teaches a group of Green students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2pm.

### Instructional Design for Online Course Development

As the ESL Director, it is my responsibility to improve the ESL Program, so I enrolled in an online course called "Instructional Design for Online Course Development." I'm hoping that it will help me with this transition to teaching online. I am also continuing to work on the program's curriculum. Currently, we do not have a curriculum but a bank of materials. I'm confident that this course will help me to understand and implement proper instructional design practices in the program.



Kathy's Red Class consists of Grace, Yue Zhang, and Linda. (Counter clockwise)

## Cuba Partnership Update

BY NANCY PIPPIN, SECRETARY  
 CUBA PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE  
 NANCYPIPPIN@YAHOO.COM

### Happy Fall!

Greetings from the First Pres Cuba Partners Steering Committee. How wonderful God blesses us with varied seasons and climates! Here are updates from the Steering Committee's August meeting.

### A Welcome

We are so grateful to have **Bob Kirby** return to a position on the committee. His experience and work on a number of missions are appreciated. Welcome Aboard, Bob!

### A Thank You

We want to thank all who are praying and contributing to the Luyanó Church in Havana and the Presbyterian Church of Cuba (IPRC). Recently, we witnessed the power of Hurricane Laura sweep through the Caribbean and parts of the USA. Thankfully, the Luyanó neighborhood, the city of Havana and most of Cuba experienced minimal impact. But given difficult economic conditions, even a "mild" encounter

adds to the daily challenges and the fragile balance of life on the island.

### An Invitation

PCUSA Cuba Partners Network Annual Meeting Online, September 25 and 26. Traditionally, representatives from all Cuba Partners throughout the USA travel to one city or another to attend the annual meeting. Representatives from Cuba and various affiliate ministries, such as Living Waters for the World, also come. This year, the Partners will meet online due to the pandemic. Meeting online opens up participation to all who are interested. We invite all to consider learning more about the Cuba Partner Network through participating in the Annual Meeting.

Conference registration is \$20.00. This covers all 3 sessions on September 25 and 26. To register, contact **Bryan Beck**, PCUSA CPN Treasurer: the.becks@comcast.net For additional information, contact **Rachel Matthews**, Mission Coordinator rachel@firstpres.church.

Thankful for all of you whether we are together or apart. God bless and keep you.

From Your Environmental Stewardship Committee (Green Team)

BY CLEMMIE ACKERMANN  
COLETTA.ACKERMANN@GMAIL.COM

**Faith in Place Virtual Green Team Summit**

Because of COVID-19, Faith in Place will be holding its annual Green Team Summit virtually this year. Everyone is invited to join Faith in Place on September 13-17 “to explore how interconnected our world is with people of faith who care about the environment and justice.” The FREE workshops “will connect the dots between the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and racial justice.” There will be workshops from 4:30-5:30 PM, 6-7 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM. You can choose which workshops you would like to participate in each day.

Register at <https://www.greenteamsummit.org>. “You will receive login credentials closer to the Summit. You can attend any workshops with those credentials.”

**Champaign County Electronics Recycling Event**

The next Champaign County electronics recycling event will take place on Friday, October 9, in the afternoon and Saturday, October 10, in the morning. The event will take place at Parkland College and pre-registration is required. For details and registration, go to <https://ecycle>.

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)

[simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/unit/10](https://www.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/unit/10). This site has details about the event, including which communities are participating and what will be accepted. For additional information on electronics recycling in the area go to the City of Champaign and City of Urbana web sites.

**Recycling Food Containers**

Because of COVID-19, many of us are getting take-away, carry-out and delivered meals, with additional packaging. The Green Team encourages you to recycle any containers that can normally go into your recycling bin, including plastic, cardboard and aluminum containers. We hope you are saving your (polystyrene) styrofoam containers (#6 chasing arrow) for recycling at DART Container in east Urbana. (on Lierman Ave.) The Green Team will hold another Styrofoam Recycling Event when it is safe to do so and we'll keep you posted on future plans. Until then, please save your styrofoam at home or take it to the styrofoam corral at DART Containers.

Champaign Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) building at 201 Kenyon Road, Champaign. Services are now more accessible and more effectively coordinated.

Immigrants in our community have suffered disproportionately from our economic recession. Many have lost jobs in restaurants and housekeeping. Immigrant Services of Champaign Urbana (ISCU), The Refugee Center and The Champaign Urbana Public Health (CUPHD) collaborate to deliver free food, hygiene and health supplies weekly. Cash assistance for rent has also been available.

The relocation ministry our congregation had offered over many years has now become a part of ISCU and is shared with the Refugee Center. A free store at the CUPHD receives and distributes household items. While scheduled drop off is preferred, pick up is also available. Email Carolyn at [camaillepetersen@gmail.com](mailto:camaillepetersen@gmail.com) to schedule donations.

Priority donation needs are mattresses (full and queen), sheets, blankets and comforters (twin XL, full and queen) and pillows. Kitchen items are always in demand as are refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, laundry washers and dryers. Children's priorities are diapers and clothing for sizes 4, 5, and 6, cribs, car seats, booster seats, high chairs and strollers.

**Refugee Center, ISCU and CUPHD Together IMMIGRANTS SUFFER IN ECONOMIC RECESSION**

The Refugee Center and Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana and the Champaign Urbana (ISCU) have moved to the



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**Sunday:**

9 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education

11:15 AM Worship

**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 ..... Temporary Mission Coordinator, Ext. 219

Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216

Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224

Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235

Mindy Watts-Ellis.....Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

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