



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN



The Heart of Mission February 9, 2021

Our Matthew 25 initiatives are building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. This evening the Mission Team meets on zoom with Community Mission Deacons and World Mission for an educational event on poverty beginning at 4:30 on zoom.

Maybe you are not on a mission committee in the church but would like to do a mission activity. Someone suggested I set up a website with tasks so you could just click on the website and pick an activity to do.

Right away I would point you to some small groups in the church who do mission:

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

If you like caring for the environment, the **environmental stewardship committee** offers opportunities to plant and work in gardens around the church, pick up trash, recycle, and educate yourself about other ways to care. And getting involved in Faith in Place an advocacy group that partners with the ESC for an even greater degree of education and involvement.

Join the First Presbyterian Knifty Knitters and Presbyterian Women with **Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)**.

Knit a hat or scarf for a Kemmerer youth.

Volunteer to help with Camp Carew this coming Summer.

If you are interested in languages and helping people with a second language feel more comfortable in our neighborhood, contact Jeanette Pyne about volunteering for our ESL program at First Presbyterian Church, or attend an ESL Café zoom on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for fellowship with ESL students.

We have learned over the years that mission work is about building relationships. Mission work is a mutual sharing of power and resources that allow for the growth and development of people's lives and a sharing of God's love which is the good news of the gospel. Sometimes when we do mission activities we are not sharing God's love, we are just making ourselves feel good and important. Friends, we are human and human beings are complicated and imperfect. That is why we say in the Apostle's Creed, "I believe ...in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

I would encourage you to go ahead and find a mission activity to do. Your mission committee is already trying to build relationships with a select group of mission partners who can provide us with activities that will strengthen us all. In doing your mission activity, you begin to build relationships.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

CU at Home: They had a terrific **One Winter Night** on Feb. 5! Thank you!

Check out all the ways to be involved as a volunteer with them:

<https://www.cuathome.us/volunteer/>

Be a friend at the Phoenix Daytime drop in center.

Volunteer to drive.

Be a professional case manager if you are a trained social worker.

Be a spiritual adviser and encourage someone on their spiritual walk.

Involve a group of church members or your small group to take part in various seasonal activities, arranged with a Phoenix coordinator.

CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE

Collect times for the resident house and bring them to the First Presbyterian Church mission closet:

Disinfectant spray

Disinfectant wipes

Hand sanitizer

Hand soap

Tissue (for nose)

Batteries (9-volt, 3-volt, D, AAA and AA)

Disposable gloves

Towels and washcloths

Paper towels

CANTEEN RUN – For immediate volunteer needs, hours and contact info at

<http://www.cucanteenrun.org/>

Collect items for the homeless: shirts, blankets, underwear, socks, toiletries, coats, hats, gloves, and scarves.

Drive volunteers to drop off items to the homeless.

COURAGE CONNECTION –

Take a 40 hour DV advocacy training. DVTrainer@courageconnection.org

Collect shampoo and toiletries and bring to First Presbyterian Mission closet to be delivered.

DREAAM

Volunteer or Mentor with a young man. See <https://www.dreaam.org/take-action> on how you can be involved.

eEMPTY TOMB, INC

Volunteer directly in their office.

Coordinate meal deliveries between Empty Tomb requests and First Presbyterian Church members.

Collect items for Layettes to be dropped off at First Presbyterian mission closet.

FAITH IN ACTION

Take the OSF volunteer inventory to help with seniors:

<https://www.osfhealthcare.org/heart-of-mary/amenities/social-services/faith-action-application/>

JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY in Rantoul

Check out their volunteer opportunities: <https://jesusisthewayprisonministries.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

THE REFUGEE CENTER –

Fill out a volunteer interest form: <https://www.therefugeecenter-cu.org/volunteer-interest-form> for the following ways to serve:

- Tutor a client in English
- Translate documents
- Serve as an interpreter at the Center
- Serve as an interpreter in the community
- Teach citizenship classes
- Tutor students one-on-one
- Monitor playtime on Saturday mornings
- Plan fundraisers and special events
- Provide office assistance
- Complete marketing and development projects
- Serve as a board members

RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY -

Take their volunteer training to share your expertise with their residents. Contact at (217) 355-2662 or restorationurbanministry@gmail.com
Donate to their food and clothing pantry.

SALT & LIGHT

Recycle your worn out socks, jeans and tees.
Donate gently used household items and clothing.
Shop at the Salt & Light grocery store. People ages 55 and above get 10% off on Wednesdays.
Attend a volunteer orientation. They have them once a week. Mondays 12-1pm and Wednesdays 4-5pm at the Urbana store.
Volunteer for projects or teaching in their educational wing.

Get involved with our International Mission co-workers:

Meet **Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Escobar** as well as the staff at Frontera de Cristo to learn more about border ministry, buy some coffee, and find ways to help our refugee and immigrant community on our borders. See the new schedule below:



Coffee, Conversation, & Compassion
New conversations starting Feb 11 at 5 pm MST
(4pm Pacific, 6pm Central, 7pm Eastern)

February 11—Town Hall Conversation
with Coordinators Jocabed Gallegos and Mark Adams
(an update of existing ministries and an introduction of new ministries)

February 18—Devastation in the Borderlands
An Interview with John Kurc, professional photographer who has documented the construction of the border wall and its destruction of God's creation

February 25—A Pilgrimage of Remembrance
A Conversation with the School Sisters of Notre Dame:
Honoring those who have died while crossing the border

Join the Zoom conversation:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85158343162>
Send email to office@fronteradecristo.org to receive updates

Pray for or write to

Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)
Jeff and Christi Boyd (Central Africa)
Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

Create a virtual educational trip to one of the countries of our mission coworkers to share with others on a Wednesday night First Presbyterian Church zoom gathering.

Lifeline Pilots and Mission Aviation Fellowship

Volunteer to fly.

Donate to help others fly medical patients in our region.

Donate to help others fly to assist in medical needs in the world.

Marion Medical Mission

Volunteer to go to Africa to partner in building a well.

Donate for the building of a well.

Opportunity International

Educate yourself on microfinancing.

Donate to help women and children.

Friends of Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan Presbyterian

Give a scholarship for a day student or a boarding student in Pakistan.

Cuba Partnership

Become an advocate for our sister congregation in Luyano, Havana.

Get involved in a study group about Cuba and prepare for when we can travel to Cuba again to see our sister church.

Special Offerings of the PC(USA)

Watch our worship service offering opportunities at Easter (Great Hour of Sharing), after a disaster (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), Pentecost (help young people), and Christmas (Joy Gift Offering).

Theological Education Fund

Learn about seminary.

Pray for people to learn how God has called them to ministry inside and outside of the church.

Young Adult Volunteers

Volunteer for a year of service in the United States or Globally.

There is a lot of mission going on!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator

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
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

FPCC Mission Team, World Mission and Community Mission Deacons



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