



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

YOUR GIFTS MAKE THESE MINISTRIES POSSIBLE

Wazi Ahahag Oyangke Your gifts are helping people who live on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, a food desert, receive training and assistance from the organization, Owe Aku, to maintain gardens to support nutrition, health, culture, and well-being.

Detroit, MI Your gifts partner with *Worriors on Wheels* of Metropolitan Detroit to advocate for equal opportunity and full inclusion for people with disabilities and We the People of Detroit in efforts to secure safe drinking water and prevent shut-offs, especially during the pandemic.

Brooklyn, NY You provided support to Black Women's Blueprint in New York, enabling survivors to lift up Black women and girls who are survivors of violence, trauma, and racial injustice.

South Sudan You are helping train technicians in South Sudan to dig and manage water wells for their communities while supporting efforts in hygiene and sanitation.

Zimbabwe You are helping the church and supporting entrepreneurial women who sew face masks in a meaningful contribution to the fight against the spread of the coronavirus; and providing affordable masks for all in the community.

Bolivia Your gifts are helping people build infrastructure to address the communities' critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need.

World Because we are the Church, together, we celebrate the ministries of the Church in each and every expression. Through your gifts to OGHs, you are part of living out the call to become a Matthew 25 Church. Find out how your congregation can declare itself to be part of this invitation and share your story at: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25.

Prayer: God, we want to become repairers of the breach. We want to see you among us, and so we walk where you said you would be; in Jesus among all who are hungry, thirsty, sick, and oppressed. Amen.

Because We Are the Church, Together

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Together, we are making a difference. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT
pcusa.org/oghsmap

The Heart of Mission

February 16, 2021

Happy Chinese New Year and Happy Valentine's Day! I know Valentine's Day has passed and so has the Chinese New Year (Jan.12) but I have to give a shout out to a couple of groups in our congregation who were sharing love on those days! ESL had a congregational/ESL café on Thursday Jan.11. Jeanette Pyne, our ESL Director, shared that for some of our students the Chinese New Year is a very important holiday! And, our Presbyterian Women shared a Happy Valentine's box lunch and treats with the staff. We are so appreciative! It was such a lift in the middle of the week to have that special treat and see their smiling faces. Isn't it fun to celebrate with people we love?

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. One Great Hour of Sharing is the special offering the PC(USA) collects on Easter Sunday, which ends our Lenten journey, but the whole of Lent is a time to prepare and reflect on the many ways we can help people who are hungry, help care for the earth, empower groups of people to meet a need for their community or assist people in disasters. The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering does all of that. See

ALL the places in the world OGHS touches people's lives: pcusa.org/oghsmap. The picture at the top of our newsletter today shows only a FEW of those many places.

In the next 6 weeks, I will give you a scripture lesson and some daily mission tasks from the One Great Hour of Sharing material to help focus you on your Lenten journey. You might want to have a small coin bank (Fish bank, First Pres bank) to collect small coins as you do these activities. If you cannot give coins, think about acts of service you can do for others.

Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday: Read Isaiah 58:6-8, 12. What are we asked to do? Who helps meet those same needs for you (v.12)? Say a prayer of gratitude for them. Don't forget our Ash Wednesday zoom service. Watch the daily mailers for more information.

Feb. 18, Thursday: Our Gracie Fish coinboxes will hold many gifts of money this season, but what other kinds of gifts can we give? (We have handed these banks out in worship in the past. If any of you want one, I can find one for you.) What gifts can you give or share?

Feb. 19, Friday: Find where you live on the map and identify which OGHS site is closest to you. What problems are being solved there? See Pcusa.org/oghsmap

Feb. 20, Saturday: Sunday is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)'s Blue Shirt Sunday. What does PDA do to show God's love? Choose something blue to wear or share with your congregation.

Feb. 21, Sunday: After a natural disaster or in a public health crisis, it may be hard to find places to buy basic supplies. Say a prayer of thanksgiving and give a gift for each time you had toilet paper to use today. Read the lectionary texts: Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15.

Prayer for the week: God, open our eyes to your face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connected with all of creation. May we as your Church, together, seek love, justice and peace with all. Amen.

Feb. 22, Monday: Over 23 million Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Give a gift for each grocery store nearby (and everyone you can walk to if you don't have a car!)

Feb. 23, Tuesday: Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Give a gift for each light switch in your home. The Heart of Mission will have new activities for the next week.

Other mission activities you can do this week:

Make a commitment to join a small group/committee in our congregation like Environmental which met yesterday and every third Monday of the month or World Mission which meets every third Tuesday at 4:30 via zoom. (Be patient just a little longer for in person meetings!)

Join **Frontera de Cristo on their Coffee, Conversation and Compassion** zoom Thursdays.

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

Join **Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)** and the **World Mission Committee** on an evaluation of fair trade products in Indonesia with the microfinancing organization she helps teach and coach. Several of us tested the products for them and our congregation gave them a microfinance grant that is still going. (Yes, you see my smiling face in one of those pictures.)



"EVALUATION FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC"
AN ONLINE MEETING BETWEEN AMERICANS AND INDONESIANS FOR FUTURE AGENDA 2030 OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Facilitator and Moderator

Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta PhD

Special guest speakers:


Dean of Business Faculty,
Duta Wacana Christian University (DWCU)
Dr. Perminas Pangeran, SE, M.Si


General Secretary
of Indonesian Fair Trade Forum
Netty Febriana

Opening remarks from
1. Rector of DWCU
2. Area Coordinator
of World Mission,
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Date and Time :

Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Friday, February, 19, at 7 AM
USA, Pacific Time	Thursday, February, 18, at 4 PM
USA, Mountain Time	Thursday, February, 18, at 5 PM
USA, Central Time	Thursday, February, 18, at 6 PM
USA, Eastern Time	Thursday, February, 18, at 7 PM


<http://bit.ly/3aHsfOI>
Meeting ID : 828 0101 3401
Passcode : 19022021

 Yayasan
Griya Jati Rasa

 Pusat Studi Pembangunan
& Transformasi Masyarakat,
Fakultas Bisnis, UKDW

 Koperasi
Konsumen
Griya Jati Rasa

 Magister Manajemen
Universitas Kristen
Duta Wacana

Pray with **CU at Home and other local mission agencies:**

- Would you join us in prayer for the **leaders and members of our community that we would all remain diligent and strong as we continue to battle COVID-19?**
- Please pray for **all those who participated in One Winter Night 2021 that they would received a blessing from their commitment and faithfulness but that they would also remain healthy** and enter 2021 with a new perspective of just how blessed they are.
- Would you also pray for the **grandson of one of our close friends who is suffering with some continued medical issues?** We pray for healing and strength for this little guy and his family.
- Praise the Lord for the ability to **remain open during these extremely cold temperatures!** Because of amazing community support we have been open 24 hours a day since the morning after One Winter Night at the Phoenix and the shelters providing a warm and safe place for our friends! We will continue this service at least for the next several days.
- Thank you God for **bringing SO many different sectors of society together to produce the most successful One Winter Night event we have ever had!** When we all come together for one common goal, amazing impact can happen!
- Praise to Jesus for **helping us reach our One Winter Night fundraising goal at 8:21pm on the night of the event! To God be the glory!!!**

Pray with **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan and/or join the Pakistan study group which meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-3:00:**



National and International Concerns

Continuing struggle against COVID -19 virus

Renewed strength to live responsibly and healthy for the welfare of all

For wise and compassionate leadership

For children at our border separated from their parents to be reunited as soon as possible

Protection from COVID-19

FOPEB and PEB Concerns

Our new Executive Director, Laurie, as she settles in and guides us in our ministry.

The teachers, staff, students and households of PEB

For the Boards, staff, and households of FOPEB and PEB
The generous supporters of FOPEB
FOPEB staff as we continue to about each other and working together
The academics in PEB schools will go well
For financial growth for PEB schools
Pray for PEB property issue and the return of the last three schools
Pray for the new HR department at PEB
Miss Seemab asks for more admissions at Gill-Nicholson's Boy's High School
Miss Seemab asks for a successful academic year
Miss Saba asks for increased enrollment at Solomon Standard School
New partners for the SHE project.
God's ideas for fundraising for PEB as visits still are limited

Personal Concerns

Veda as she travels back to Pakistan for a fruitful time
Tina to have wisdom helping care for her mother
Laurie's daughter Audrey who has entered bootcamp in the Air Force
Pam's daughter Samantha to have a healthy baby due February 18th

Healing

Miss Kashif asks for prayer for her families spiritual growth
Pray for healing for Miss Reeba's mother who has been unwell
Pray for Mr. Suleman's trigeminal pain for healing
Pray for Mr. Akhtar's daughter who has been unwell for a number of years
Pray for Mr. Khurram's son has been unwell
Lynn to have a speedy recovery from surgery February 15th.
Shelley's friend Sharon for healing from cancer
Carol, an elderly relative of Pam is in ICU with blood clots in her lungs

Praise and Thanks

We give thanks that the schools are reopened
Give thanks that the Pasrur legal case has been resolved in PEB's favor
Give thanks that Veda had a good stay in the United States
Give thanks for the recovery of Mr. Khalid's daughter

And, finally, **pray for our sister congregation in Cuba**. Our Cuba partners would like us to consider reaching out to our elected representatives to share our experiences in Cuba and speak out for ourselves and our Cuba partners like our sister congregation in Luyano, Havana. If you need a sample letter to help you ask them to support improved US-Cuba relations, let me know and I can point you in a helpful direction.

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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CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

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