



The Heart of Mission

April 13, 2021

Silence is praise to you,
 Zion-dwelling God,
And also obedience,.
 You hear prayer in it all.....

Oh, visit the earth,
 Ask her to join the dance!
Deck her out in spring showers,
 Fill the God-River with living water.
Paint the wheat fields golden.
 Creation was made for this!
Drench the plowed fields,

Soak the dirt clods
With rainfall as harrow and rake
Bring her blossom and fruit.
Snow-crown the peaks with splendor,
Scatter rose petals down your paths,
All through the wild meadows, rose petals.
Set the hills to dancing.
Dress the canyon walls with live sheep,
A drape of flax across the valleys.
Let them shout, and shout, and shout!
Oh, oh, let them sing!

– **Psalm 65, selected verses** (*The Message*)

The photo is from my recent walk at the Japan House gardens! It was truly inspiring. Spring is here! As Earth Day approaches, find a moment to thank God for this bountiful gift that we have in the Earth. Below you will find a schedule for Earth Week culminating on Earth Sunday. Also, take a look at the Annual Cuba Forum weekend schedule and the opportunities there. You cannot talk about Spring without remembering our wonderful trips to Cuba and the wonderful hospitality of our sister church in Luyano. We want to give you plenty of time to put it on your calendar. We will be joining the hills in virtual dancing among other things! And, as always, pray for our mission partners at work in the world.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator



Planting the Story Garden in 2019

Environmental Stewardship Committee - (reprinted from April's newsletter)

April is the month we celebrate the gift of God's great Earth.

Saturday, April 17, 8 AM join others for a cleanup of litter along State Street.

Thursday, **April 22**, is the **51st Earth Day**. The evening zoom gathering on **Wednesday, April 21, at 7 PM** will focus on this.

Saturday, April 24, Styrofoam Collection from 9 to 11.

Sunday, April 25, the worship service will celebrate Earth Day with words and song.

(And after Earth Week, you are invited for a few more stewardship of the Earth opportunities.)

Monday, April 26, register for the Clean Energy Advocacy Day with Faith in Place.

Wednesday, April 28, register for the Green Transportation webinar. Registration can be done on the Faith in Place website, www.faithinplace.org

Sunday, May 2, at 8 AM Grand Prairie Friends online Plant Sale. You can access their plant catalog at <https://www.grandprairiefriends.org> First year plants in 4" pots are \$4 each. Buy 18, and receive 3 free (get \$72 value for \$60).

You're Invited
First Presbyterian Church Champaign



A Time for Celebration

United, United in Him, United Unidos, Unidos en Su Nombre, Unidos

Cuba Weekend, May 1 & 2

May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Come celebrate! Celebrate our hope for a new era, pandemic free with open travel, a bustling economy for both of our countries and standing more strongly united than ever in our lives in Jesus Christ.

Annual Cuba Forum

Preconference

Watch an informative talk by **Professor Emeritus Nils Jacobsen** from the Department of History at the U of I. He reviews the contemporary history, the state of life in Cuba today and forecasts what we might expect in US-Cuba relations in the future. Watch it here <https://youtu.be/YcDbRkioSok>. Come on Saturday with your questions for Professor Jacobsen.

Saturday, May 1 10 AM (via Zoom)

Come for music, prayer, testimonies and photo shares during our Eighth Annual Cuba Forum. Professor Nils Jacobsen will address your questions from his video presentation.

Shared Worship

Sunday, May 2 9 AM (online)

Come back Sunday at 9 AM as we share worship with our congregation on the island at [FirstPres.live](https://firstpres.live). We will share messages and prayers from our siblings in Havana and feature music of the island.

Cuba Two-Step

Sunday, May 2 1 PM (via Zoom)

Continue to celebrate Sunday afternoon at 1 PM via Zoom with a virtual salsa lesson, more photo shares and more music. Karin Vermillion will teach us to sing a Cuban song you will love.

For more information and to register for a zoom link for the Forum and Two-Step contact the Church office 217- 356-7238 or zoom@firstpres.church.



Salt and Light: Curbside online grocery at Salt & Light Urbana. Order Here:
<https://shop.saltandlightministry.org/shop>

CU at Home: I will share just a piece of this week's newsletter from Rick Williams, CU at Home's Ministry Development Assistant:

*The coming of Spring also means our [C-U at Work](#) program has kicked off its **second season** partnering with the [City of Champaign Township](#) and [Prosperity Gardens](#) to bring fresh produce to local markets! A new crew went through orientation this week and set right to work filling new raised planter boxes with fresh, rich soil (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwffi5ylzec>). Seeds for "cold crops" like lettuce, radishes, and chard are ready to go in in the east plots!*

You can learn more about [volunteer opportunities](#), the [C-U at Work](#) program, and weekly Bible studies at our [website](#). THANK YOU, as always, for your prayers and support

We want to keep 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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