



Planting the Peace Garden on Pentecost!

The Heart of Mission

May 25 2021

After Pentecost is over I want to breathe a sigh of relief and soak up the sun. Yet, the biblical witness which follows Pentecost is anything but quiet. It contains the rich stories of God, who Trinity Sunday extols as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and a beloved people working together to create a strong and vibrant community. The work of growing is at hand. Working the garden is not just basking. The daily tasks are as important as the harvest. A metaphor for sports fans is that the practice runs and sprints are going to win this race. For the gardener the metaphor is that the daily chores of tilling, planting, tending, gently weeding and watering are going to bring about the harvest. The Marthas and Marys come together to be God's hands, heart and feet. Take a deep breath and feel Life enter into the heart of mission as we move into the Summer months.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator

Here are some important announcements from our mission partners:

The Refugee Center – Invitation to participate in fundraiser in lieu of their annual banquet.

S I N C E



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Dear Friends and Supporters of the Refugee Center,

Many of you have generously supported the Refugee Center by attending our Annual Fundraiser Banquet. We appreciate you and will miss seeing you this year, as due to COVID 19, we will not hold a banquet this spring.

Our last banquet, in March of 2020, was held before the realities of COVID 19 were known. At that banquet, all of you contributed a total of \$40,000. That, associated with other giving, kept our Refugee Center open to become a major source of assistance to refugees and immigrants as families faced the economic and social challenges created by the pandemic. Our goal is to meet or exceed this amount by the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2021.

As a known and respected service provider in our area, we have received grants from local and state sources, as well as religious and secular organizations. The Refugee Center was entrusted with, and distributed in excess of \$800,000 of pass-through funds for rent, utility, and food assistance for our clients, both locally and in surrounding counties. We provided assistance to over 2,200 clients in the past year. Our staff accomplished this while working in the unusual conditions of the Pandemic: working from home; cell phone interviews; meeting clients at a picnic table outside of our offices, and using a drop box for necessary paperwork. As an example of our service, we helped settle and support a refugee family of seven from Afghanistan. Staff provided the family with masks, set up online schooling, and facilitated communication with social service agencies that were closed to in-person aid.

The Refugee Center is now asking you to consider making a donation to support our wide scope of services. Without the unrestricted money that we receive from you and others, we will be less able to deliver the vital services needed by our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Any amount that you are able to give will be greatly appreciated. At our last banquet, tables of eight were priced at \$600 and individual tickets were \$80.

You can make your donation through the PayPal option on our website: www.therefugeecenter-cu.org, or by mailing a check to The Refugee Center, 201 West Kenyon Road Suite 4D, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

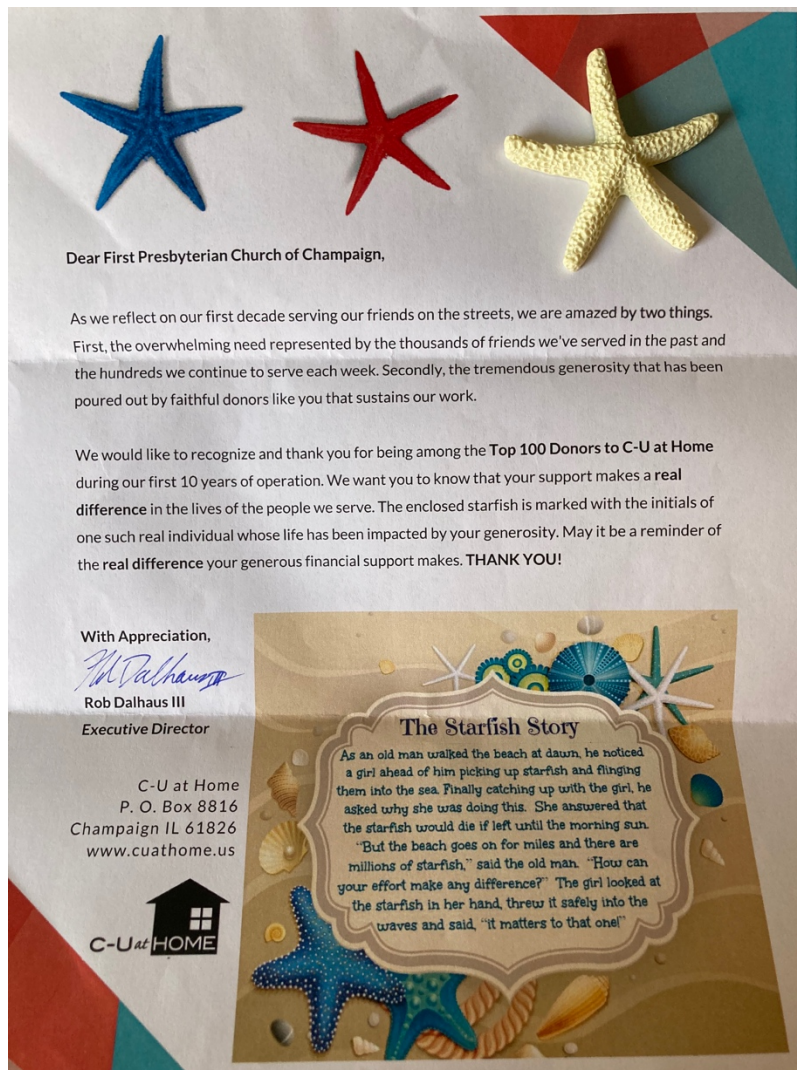
We thank you for your support! You make a difference in the lives of refugees and immigrants in our community.

Lisa C. Wilson, Executive Director

Anh Ha Ho, Director of Client Services

The Board of Directors: Maria Alanis, Sophie Bui, Tiffanie Bui, C.K. Gunsalus, Jennifer Hixson, John Muirhead, John Matanda Tshipama, Kathy Schoeffmann, Mark Schöeffmann

CU at Home – Thank you First Presbyterian!



Life Line Pilots – A fundraiser for those of you who like to eat out!

*Dine at ANY Illinois, Indiana, or Michigan Logan's Roadhouse location on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 5-9pm**, to help raise money for LifeLine Pilots. This fundraiser will provide the money to organize flights to life-saving care!*

*Present **THIS** flyer or order to-go using the code **GIVEBACK** and 15% of your total check will be donated to LifeLine Pilots.*



Canteen Run – An inspiring email from Canteen Run and a call to mission for those of you who want to participate in hands on ministry!

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord.

My son and daughter-n-law have a couple of shirts that much the same meaning, they both say to "Love your neighbor" whether color they are or what ethnicity they are. A sign says the hope and peace are contagious, Catch One! Another one is: we accept brotherly love, we accept courage, we accept hope, we accept all lives. There are plenty of more shirts and signs out there they point to positive things out there. There's a lot of love in the world.

Our current needs are:

We need a drivers and coordinators

We need men's underwear

We need men's short sleeved shirts

Our email is cucanteenrun.org. We have a Facebook page, and a Twitter account, Canteen Run@canteenrun

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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