



ESL/CYF Immigrant Back to School Fair - What a success!!! Thank you ESL/CYF, Jeanette Pyne and Samantha Nichols for orchestrating such a needed opportunity for our immigrant community. 300 free meals were handed out and more than 30 people were vaccinated. This is a bulletin board that has participant responses to the vaccinations! We are proud of such brave and caring people who got the vaccine on Saturday!

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This month is the month the PC(USA) focuses on mission to our young people who are exploring a calling to mission in the Young Adult Volunteer Program. I have met several young people who have committed one or two years of their life to this endeavor. I am so thankful First Presbyterian donates a portion of our mission giving to the YAV program. It is one way we take seriously our baptismal vows to help our young people become faithful disciples of our Lord. Mission work is hard work. It is mind blowing work. It is God's work. I think it is important that young people are given these opportunities because it can shape their entire life and strengthen the body of Christ not just in the now but for years to come.

First Presbyterian also donates a portion of our mission giving to help people, often in a second career move, to explore their vocational calling to ministry. Not everyone who goes to seminary actually becomes an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. Elders, educators, lawyers, musicians and just spiritual explorers go to seminary. Some of the Young Adult Volunteers will end up here at seminary as well. First Presbyterian has been a faithful and long term partner in seminary education through the Theological Education Fund.

In our congregational structure, we budget for these two areas of mission in our World Mission Committee. Would you like to serve on the World Mission Committee and learn more? Let Sallie Hutton or Jeannie Snoeyink know. They are cochairing the World Mission Committee and are looking for more congregational involvement. Thank you for your support!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator

CROP WALK - The CROP Hunger Walk is two months away! Put the date on your calendar - October 3, 2-4:30pm. Our congregation is hosting the walk and we will need greeters, people who will donate bottled water, and donations of wrapped snack bars for the event. More about this later.

Raindrop Offering - At the end of July we had raised more than \$3820. We have taken in more than this that has not been counted yet. I will report on it in the next mission newsletter. Thank you so much for this wonderful offering that we will be giving to SAFE House!

Opportunity International - Another date for your calendar:

You are cordially invited to Opportunity International's
50TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT
Friday, October 1–Sunday, October 3
Chicago, IL

Join us for the most exciting weekend in Opportunity's history, as we celebrate the community that has powered our impact for 50 years! We'll take an in-depth look at the exciting ways your support is preparing us for the next 50 years as we work toward a world free of extreme poverty. Register and find more information at Opportunity.org

Kemmerer Village Golf Classic and Back to School Drive: If you have wondered how you can enjoy your golf game and serve our children in need, mark your calendars! Let us know if you would like more information about sponsoring or participating in our tournament 217-226-2130 or amie.sparks@kv.christian.k12.il.us, **Friday Sept 10 Oak Terrace - Pana, IL**

They are also having a Back to School Drive for 200 children. They have collection boxes at Assumption & Shelbyville Dollar Generals as well as the Development Office at KV.

Cuba Partner Network - On July 13, the Cuba Partner Network responded to the General Council of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba's letter.

Letter to the General Council of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Wednesday's *Su Voz* began with scripture from Psalm 9.10:

"Los que te conocen confían en ti, pues nunca los abandonas cuando te buscan." (Those who know your name trust you because you have not abandoned any who seek you.) Rereading that devotion, we believe it to be prescient of the events which have occurred recently and our reactions to those events.

Cuban citizens have protested in the streets regarding unavailability of food and medicines, health care collapsing under strain, and a resurgence of the pandemic isolating people from each other. Through it all, we are aware of the part which our government's policies have played in aggravating these issues: the closing of our embassy, restrictions on flights, shutting off channels of remittances, and the tightening of the embargo making it difficult for Cuba to engage in free trade.

Through all of this, you, our Cuban family, have continued to be a shining example to us of how to practice our shared faith: praying and working constantly to bring aid and relief to those who are ill, hungry, or isolated. You embody God's power and presence in the world. We pray with you and for your welfare as we continue to work tirelessly to advocate a more humane approach to our international relations and re-affirm our support, despite many barriers. We will never cease praying and working with you, whom we love. To use Jesus' image, we have put our hand to the plow and will not look back until the work is done.

May you continue to be the Church described in your General Council's letter of June 26: *"In the midst of these vicissitudes, the mission of the church stands in its capacity to confirm values, to unite, to heal. At the present juncture, we thank God because He has given us the privilege of experiencing that we are a true family, and that celebrating the good news is not limited to that sacred place which is the temple, but that through our gifts in the Spirit we maintain our bonds and commitments in multiple ways, as sacred as our sanctuaries."*

May God's abundant blessings and comfort be with you during these times, and always.

The Steering Committee of the Cuba Partners Network

CU at Home: The opening of the Phoenix Daytime Drop-in Center will be the week of August 9th and both the men's and women's overnight shelters will open August 16th! They are thrilled to get back to full operations and see their friends again!

We want to keep our mission partners in our prayers, 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

CANAAN 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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