



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

The Heart of Mission

August 17, 2021



• **Building congregational vitality**

• **Dismantling structural racism**

• **Eradicating systemic poverty**

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/

We are a Matthew 25 congregation. It helps me to review what that means from time to time. As we enter into the Fall season, take a look at where God calls you as we serve the least of these in our community and around the world.

- **Building congregational vitality** by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/M25-BibleStudy.pdf>)

We cannot do all things at all times for all people but we can choose to be involved with a small piece some of the time with some people. Thank you for praying for and considering the work of our mission partners!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews

Mission Opportunities in small groups: We are getting ready for Fall classes! If you haven't read the "Small Groups Sign Ups 2021" brochure that just came out or haven't signed up to be a part of a small group in the congregation, get one at the church office.

News about CROP WALK 2021



Here is a picture of the 2020 CROP Walk team from First Presbyterian!

First Presbyterian Church volunteers needed. We are hosts of 2021 CROP walk:

A. **Greeters** for October 3. Shifts: 1:30-2:30, 2:00-3, 3-4. Please let Rachel know if you can do any of these shifts. rachel@firstpres.church.

B. **Donations** of packaged snacks (we need 200). Please bring them to Rachel's office. We need them by October 1.

C. **Walkers**, Do you want to walk? Or be involved in fundraising? Register at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021> You can find the First Presbyterian Church Champaign team through Judi Geistlinger or Rachel Matthew's name.

Canteen Run has a special need in response to the Gibson City flooding.

The Salvation Army has been asked to feed 250 people for the next two weeks in Gibson City. Tony Comtois with the CU Church and Canteen Run will be leading the charge to coordinate this event. We need volunteers to help set up, cook/serve and clean up each night. Salvation Army will provide the food, and CU Church will supply the cooking equipment, tables and chairs. It will be from 4-6pm. We will need at least 6 people each night.

If you are available, please text ITony at 217-417-9232. Please note Gibson City and your phone number, and he will call you right back. Many families have been devastated by the flooding, and there is a massive clean up in progress. any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions you can call Dan at 217-722-4642 or Barb at 217-369-9344.

A Servant of Christ.
Barb and Dan Davies

World Mission: World Mission meets tonight. It continues its educational series learning about people throughout the world. When we seek to eradicate structural racism and eliminate systemic poverty, we first have to understand our brothers and sisters and the real needs they have. Learning about where they live, what they eat, how they work and worship are exciting ways of increasing that awareness. You are welcome to journey with us if you are interested.

Prayers for our sisters and brothers in Cuba

Pray for the Cuban people suffering the worst food shortage in 25 years, for the Cuban pastors and sessions delivering pastoral care during this time of medication shortage and isolation due to the coronavirus, for pediatric services in the hospital at Mantanzas overwhelmed with cases of children with Covid and the Matanzas seminary which is housing some of these sick children, for the passage of bipartisan legislation currently in Washington that would open up exports to Cuba again, that the Cuba Partner Network container shipment with supplies of beans, rice, powdered milk, detergent and syringes be shipped soon to Cuba, and for the PCUSA search committee interviewing candidates for the Presbyterian World Mission Latin America Area Coordinator.

Please save the dates!

CPN Virtual Gathering September 24 & 25, 2021

This year's virtual Gathering, "*Esperanza: Prayer, Patience, and Partnership*", is fast approaching. Please look for registration materials & more information arriving in your email inbox soon!

- Prayers specifically for our girls and boys in Sangla Hill through PEB in Pakistan -
- Tim Roach - For PEB staff, students & families as they endure the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic, on top of their usual life circumstance.
- Veda - For litigation and legal matters of properties of PEB.
- Veda - For the return of three remaining schools from the Government.
- Veda - For the progress of PEB schools, boarding houses and projects.
- For the progress and safety of PEB schools.
- Rizwana Kashif from Sangla Hill - for the progress and prosperity of PEB schools, academic strength and finances.
- Rizwana Kashif from Sangla Hill - For the spiritual growth of the students, teachers and staff of boarding house and school.

- For all PEB students of 9th and 10th class who are giving their annual examination.

LifeLine Pilots – Thanks for the pilots who flew Little Doug, a boy with acute heart failure and on a heart pump, from his home to Children’s Hospital in Texas to do the specialized surgery he needed which his local hospitals could not do and which his family did not have the funds to do get to on their own

Amateur Preachers: We are so grateful for the many gifts in this congregation! Thanks to Rachel Matthews, Judi Geistlinger, Betty Hollister, Gary Peterson, Dave Whitford, John Muirhead and Matt Matthews who have preached at Windsor Savoy since June. Several of these preachers have preached in churches in our Presbytery this Summer as well. Glad the Word of God is being proclaimed!

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
 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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