



The Heart of Mission
August 31, 2021



Having spent the last week away visiting the Redwoods at the Muir Woods and the Sequoias at the Sequoia National Forest, I am reminded again of the beauty of God's Creation. What a privilege it is to be asked by our Creator to be a steward of this great Earth. And, though we are broken in our efforts to care for this world, we are trying! Whenever we help the least of these whether it be a person or the soil we stand on, we are serving our Lord. Please prayerfully read our mission notes; they are more than a list of activities.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews



Local Action. We are blessed to host the **Little Free Pantry** on the Church Street side of our building as an Eagle Scout Project for our neighborhood.

CROP Walk updates:

Check out the Facebook page for the walk: <https://www.facebook.com/CU.CROPWalk>

CROP Hunger Walk 2021 will be held Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 2 PM. It will be a hybrid event: online and in-person at First Presbyterian Champaign (unless conditions merit a change to all virtual).

Yes, we are hosting CROP Walk this year! Please donate wrapped snack bars for the October event. Bring them to Rachel's office. There is already a stack on my desk started! We are planning for 150 to 200 people. Should the event go all virtual, we will donate the snack bars to one of our mission partners.

If you would like to create a team or register to walk, here are some links.

- Link for signing up to create a team: <https://forms.gle/VkTc9hGrPhgCyCaS6>
- Create a team for your volunteers or promote registration and participation through crophungerwalk.org/champaignil

And, there will be a [CU Lockdown Trivia](#)'s Sept 24 at 7:30pm Trivia Night. The proceeds go toward this year's CROP Hunger Walk fundraising effort. ([Sign up here](#))

World Mission acts. *Our World Mission Statement: Sharing God's love and message of salvation with people in need around the globe through support, empowerment education and relationships.* In August World Mission took action to assist Frontera de Cristo and the recent increase in immigration needs on the Douglas/Agua Prieta, Mexico border. World Mission also took action to assist commissioners in the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church in attending the first General Assembly they have had in eight years due to civil unrest. Please join us in praying for both of these mission concerns.

S.A.F.E. HOUSE THANK YOU:

The residents of Canaan S.A.F.E. House sent a video Thank you for the recent computers purchased from the Raindrop Offering. Click on the link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V5RNTD2wOvQ9uZKeMgDYJrIhQ_60Yvfl/view?usp=sharing

Environmental Stewardship Committee would like to invite you to the Faith in Place 2021 Green Team Summit “Rooted for Healing” on September 12-14. The schedule of different sessions is available on <https://www.greenteamsummit.org/> Registration is required but you can attend some or all of the sessions. The Sola Gratia farm from Urbana will be highlighted on the Tuesday of the summit.

Note our own recycling efforts here at First Presbyterian:

- 1) Batteries: They must have both terminals clear scotch taped (Illinois law!). (Leave in mission closet)
- 2) Eyeglasses (Leave in box in Westminster Fellowship Hall)
- 3) prescription pill bottles with labels removed (Leave in mission closet)
- 4) Styrofoam #6 and chasing arrows (Leave in box in Westminster Fellowship Hall)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

In the last month we have had added several disasters to the many that the PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund is already assisting: the earthquake in Haiti, flooding in Tennessee, Hurricane Eta, and, the most recent, Hurricane Ida. In Haiti the earthquake has left almost 1300 people dead and thousands more injured and missing, 13000 homes destroyed and transportation and communication arteries destroyed.

This morning the news alternated between the scenes from Hurricane Ida and the evacuations from Afghanistan. We are fortunate that our local mission partner, The Refugee Center, is already working with our Afghani neighbors. The PC(USA) does not do its mission work alone; it works in partnership with people already on the ground. The PDA is a first responder in these disasters.

With regards to Haiti, “Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance and its members. The PC(USA), through PDA and together with

regional World Mission colleagues, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.”

“The needs for the response will be great. God’s people are once again called on to stand in the “GAP” – Give. Act. Pray.” You can find the latest PDA news on <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

CUBA PARTNER NETWORK: The CPN Virtual Gathering is September 24 & 25, 2021. You can attend this year's virtual Gathering, "Esperanza: Prayer, Patience, and Partnership," by registering at <https://www.cubapartnersnetwork.info/> The cost is \$25.

Children Youth and Families: Just a reminder if you are reading this and you have children but did not know that our church has an excellent children, youth and family program, read on! You will want to contact Mindy@firstpres.church or Samantha@firstpres.church and find out about the Sunday school and all the CYF activities for Fall. **We have a website for our families with kids!** It has a special address and password so contact Mindy and/or Samantha for access to all the latest news about fall Sunday School plans from Children, Youth and Family Ministry and family resources!

CU at Home: It is back! They have new staff and have been very active. Read their newsletter which is full of introductions and news. https://www.cuathome.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/August.2021.Newsletter1_compressed.pdf?blm_aid=253367297

CU at Home is also inviting our church members to volunteer at their Phoenix Day Center to meet and visit with our friends without an address. If you are interested or decide to volunteer, please let me know. I want to determine if First Presbyterian can take a day or afternoon a week as a church. This is what Cheryl, the new Center coordinator wrote me,

The Phoenix serves as an important intersectional space in our community where people from different walks of life who don't usually interact have the opportunity to get to know and understand and bless one another. We would love it if you would come and be a part of this community with us!

We are open Tuesday-Friday 12-5, and we're looking for people to spend time with our friends without addresses--chatting, playing games, doing puzzles, etc. There are two ways your church members could volunteer their time. The first way is to volunteer individually (ideally, we'd like people to come for 2-3 hours shifts, but we're flexible). If this is something your members would be interested in, please have them contact me directly, and I will get them scheduled for a volunteer slot! Another possibility that we've utilized in the past is to have a church commit to covering one day a week for us. We generally ask for 3-5 volunteers during all of our open hours, and you can decide how you'd like to cover that time--you can split up the shifts however works best for your volunteers. If you are interested in this, please let me know (and we would be SO grateful!), and we will work out the details.

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
eMPTY 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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