



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**



The Heart of Mission
September 29, 2020

The above picture is from our church's first in person churchwide gathering since the Pandemic. It is outdoors and socially distanced. We have met twice outside at Hessel Park an hour after our online worship, the latest time this past Sunday. The church has not been idle during the past few months! What a relief not to find that out via email or zoom! It was so great to visit with each other. Mission work has not been idle either. The biggest, most important work in mission is connecting with one another. It is connection which leads to the sharing of our needs with one another, sharing our love with one another and sharing the gospel with one another. It is not surprising that when people are oppressed or put in a vacuum of isolation, the part of us made in the image of God (Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer/ Father, Son and Holy Spirit/Related three in one) reaches out for reconciliation and belonging. The opposite of love is not anger, it is apathy. Anger and love are much more the alike than different. They both require connection.

In this time of separation and isolation, let us pray for each other

*How great is your love, Lord God,
how wide is your mercy!
Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life
with rules or doctrines that you dismiss;
but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with affection,
so that your church may never exclude
secret friends of yours,
who are included in the love of Jesus Christ,
who came to save us all. Amen.*

(BOOK OF OCCASIONAL SERVICES A LITURGICAL RESOURCE SUPPLEMENTING THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP, PCUSA:1993)

Peace,

Rachel Matthews, Temporary Mission Coordinator

Our Mission Agency Announcements:

Mission Team – 4:30pm, October 13, zoom

World Mission – 4:30pm, October 20, zoom

Community Mission Deacons – 4:30pm, October 27, zoom.

Canteen Run – They need medium large, x-l, and 2x-l.coats
Deliveries can be dropped off at the Salvation Army on Market Street.
Canteen Run can be reached at cucanteenrun@gmail.com

CROP WALK – You can watch the virtual CROP Walk this year at Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 1:30 PM

- Zoom Gathering
 - By Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86161903170>
 - By Phone:
Phone Number: (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 861 6190 3170

Cuba Partner Network Virtual Gathering 2020 - The PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network Virtual Gathering: *Celebrating our Connections in the Time of COVID*, was held via Zoom webinar this past weekend. We saw so many of our friends from Cuba! Even Pat Metcalf gave an appearance with a wonderful peace on why we do Advocacy. Stay tuned for more on Cuba as we unpack the Summit. And, please keep the Cuba People in your prayers. We learned about their food and resource challenges due to the US embargo.

CU at Home – I hope you saw in the newspaper that Austin's Place is joining forces with CU at Home. The women and men's shelter will now be in the same facility. Tomorrow Matt, Lola and

myself will attend the Men's and Women's Emergency Shelter zoom, Sept. 30, 12pm. Would you join us in prayer for **a couple who, like many during this COVID time, continue to be under spiritual warfare and facing one trial after another?**

- Would you join us in prayer for **a friend who has multiple medical procedures upcoming?** We ask that God would guide the doctors and nurses and help this amazing women get back to full health.
- Please pray for **patience for all of us as sometimes things don't always happen as quickly as we think they will.** Help us remember that God's timing is perfect and not our will but His be done.
- Would you also pray for us to have **peace in the face of trials and calm when dealing with the storms of adversity?**
- Thank you God for the **opportunities throughout the day to get a glimpse into the life of our fellow man.** Click [here](#) to read about one of these emotional experiences in a hospital waiting room shared by one of our dear friends, Bev Baker!
- Praise the Lord for a new **friend without an address who comes to the Phoenix nearly every day, picks up a broom or mop and with a servant's heart, helps make our drop-in center beautiful!**
- Praise to Jesus for **another longtime friend from the street who moved into his own apartment this week**

CYF– Have you ever considered teaching middle schoolers or high schoolers with our own Children, Youth and Families? See Mindy@firstpres.church if you would like to help our educational mission!

Environmental Stewardship Committee Adopt-a-Highway – October 6 at 9am. Bring your own gloves and sign a waiver and release form prior to coming. Rachel can email you a copy. We pick up trash up and down State Street and Westside Park.

Presbyterian Women – **The PW books are in!** You should be getting one soon if you ordered it. If you did not and want a copy, Rachel did order extra and you can let her know if you would like one.

Restoration Urban Ministries – Please keep Brother Irwin Williams, founder of R.U.M., in your prayers. The ministry is going strong but he has been under the weather.

Let us keep all 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)

Jo Ella Holman (Caribbean and Cuba) – And, for the mission coworker you are preparing to take her place upon her retirement this month.

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



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