



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

The Heart of Mission
November 9, 2021



We have terrific news! We celebrate with our hermanamientos in Cuba.
Many of you Cuba Partners already received this news but I had to share it with everyone.
Read through to the bottom for more mission news.

Several months ago, CPN received a request from the IPRC for a container of commodities to be shipped to Cuba. CPN members Laura St. Clair (*coordinator*), Rev. John Potter (*CPN Co-convener*), Barbara D'Andrea (*Program Committee*), and Rev. Valdir França (*PC(USA) Regional Coordinator for Latin America*) served on the CPN Cuba Container Committee, and set to work on logistics.

Rev. Izett Samá (*General Secretary, IPRC Havana Presbytery*) was designated by the IPRC as coordinator in Cuba and a humanitarian aid cargo management company, *Missionary Expeditors*, was contracted to help us navigate the world of international shipping.

After countless WhatsApp meetings with the IPRC, a list of items to ship, as well as a budget for the items, was approved. A container was assembled which included rice, beans, powdered milk, coffee, soap, detergent and syringes.

Last month, after delays due to both hurricanes and red tape, our container was shipped from the port of New Orleans to the port of Mariel in western Cuba.

We are overjoyed to share that the container was recently received by the IPRC and they have begun distribution to presbyteries and churches!

Please click below for a special message of gratitude from the IPRC

with photos of supplies being delivered and received:

["If Jesus says yes, who says no?"](#)

Music: ""When Jesus Says Yes, Nobody Can Say No""

Nigerian praise music performed live by Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child.

Cuba Study Sign Up – This Sunday we will have a special emphasis on our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Cuba. This January we will have a special Cuba zoom study. You can sign up in Westminster Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday or you can email me at rachel@firstpres.church.

Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7-8pm, we will look with fresh eyes at the history, culture and hopes of Presbyterians in Cuba, our *hermanamientos*. This will be a zoom study only. If you are interested in praying with and for our brothers and sisters in Cuba, if you are interested in dreaming about a future trip to Cuba, if you are wanting to experience a little Cuban culture, this will lift your spirits during January. Sign up and join us. We need your email address to send you a zoom link.

Our prayers continue for Daniel Izquierdo who will be defending his PhD dissertation this Saturday, November 13.

Here is the link again for all **CUBA PARTNERS** who want to read the wonderful devotional from Cuba, **Su Voz** <http://cubapartnersnetworksuvoz.blogspot.com/2021/>



Next week we will look toward Thanksgiving and Advent. Meanwhile, there are a few calendar items this week from our mission partners:

Restoration Urban Ministry will be holding a Prayer vigil November 13 at Westside Park, 4-7pm. "Stand with Us to Bring Light into the Darkness." They will be serving chili, crackers and beverages as well as praying about family disfunction, mental health, homelessness, violence and prejudices. Join us in praying for this ministry.

Canteen Run needs people to make sandwiches for them on the 15th, 17th, 22nd. 29th. We need 20 sandwiches for those nights and deliver them to 1408 Harrington Dr before 5:00pm in Champaign. We would appreciated it

Looking ahead to the **Angel Tree** in December: The **Community Mission Deacons** voted to encourage giving gifts to children at Kemmerer Village for the Angel Tree as well as camp

scholarships to Camp Carew for them if people did not want to purchase and wrap gifts. The tree should be up by November 21. The **Advent Offering** will go to funds for Afghan families resettlement. We will have more information about this next month.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews

We want to 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)

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

The new Caribbean Mission CoWorker who God is calling (Caribbean and Cuba)

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

302 W. Church Street

Champaign, IL 61820

217-356-7238

info@firstpres.church