



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**



SPECIAL ADVENT EDITION

The Heart of Mission

November 16, 2021

I know Thanksgiving is next week but according to the liturgical calendar, this Sunday is Christ the King Sunday ending the lectionary year. The following Sunday, November 28, is the first Sunday in Advent. When I was in school this was always an exciting time of the year knowing that Christmas was right around the corner. As the holidays approach and mission, study and fellowship merge with worship, the church has several special dates, programs and offerings that we did not want you to miss. I have tried to compile them here so you can have it all in one place.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews



Angel Tree –

In the past couple of years, the Community Mission Deacons have sent Angel Tree gifts to the staff of our local mission agencies. This year, Community Mission Deacons voted to support our own Presbytery's mission agency that cares for foster children and orphans in our region. We have received information about ten children who will not be spending Christmas at home with their families this year but will be at Kemmerer Village.

We have hung ornaments on the tree that will have practical as well as wish list items from these specific children which Kemmerer Village has given us information about. The tree will be up this Sunday November 21 so you will have the Thanksgiving week to begin shopping for them.

Once you purchase the gifts named on your ornament, you can bring them back to the church November 28-December 12. December 12th is absolutely the very last collection day as Rachel will be driving the gifts to Kemmerer Village the morning of December 13th.

The gifts need to be unwrapped and put in a plastic bag along with the ornament you have taken from the tree. You can attach (taped or tied) the ornament to the plastic bag with the gift inside.

If you do not wish to shop but wish to donate money for a deacon to purchase the gift or donate for a Camp Carew scholarship, please bring it to the church office so Rachel can shop or assign a deacon to shop for the gift before the day they must be delivered.

If you know you would like to participate, but will not be present to take a wish list item from the tree tags, just let Rachel or Mindy know and we will set one aside for you and email you the information from the tag.

Thank you ahead of time for bringing joy to these children.



Advent Offering 2021 -

The Advent Offering begins November 28 on the first Sunday of Advent and will be taken up each of the four Sundays in Advent. Typically we do not have special envelopes in the pews available, but ask you to write "Advent Offering" in the memo of your check or on the front of a regular offering envelope, along with their name if donating cash. You can also give online and put in the memo "For Advent Offering." The Community Mission deacons have chosen the destination of the offering this year. The offering will go to The Refugee Center to assist the 6 Afghan families that have been evacuated to our area. We want to welcome them to their new home. At the end of December, we will send the full amount collected to The Refugee Center.



Advent Book Study –

Spiritual Formation invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Let's spend the season looking at the ordinary and glimpsing the divine. *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield is the book (available to purchase at \$15 beginning Nov. 21). The study will happen every Sunday in December at 10:15 in Mae Chapin Parlor.

December 2, Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea – 12 noon.

This will be an interactive celebration. We are the speakers. Let's share our Love, Faith and Hope. (Each circle is asked to plan something that corresponds to the circle name). There will be no luncheon, bring cookies instead. Bags will be available for each of us to take a cookie or two home, the rest will be placed in decorated boxes for Care Deacons to deliver.

December 5th Church-wide and CYF Service opportunity at Salt and Light from **2-4pm**. We will have a brief tour of the facility and learn more about what Salt and Light does for those in need in our community and then spend time volunteering to help process donated items. **This is open to all ages!** We would love to have families attend and serve together.

Advent Worship Events –

A very important part of Mission is praising God together. Here are some special times you won't want to miss.

Sunday, 9am, **December 12** - Music Sunday (and CYF Cookie Sales!)

Sunday, 9am, **December 19** - The Nativity

Sunday, 5:30-7pm, **December 19** - Christmas Caroling – Sponsored by Nurture

Tuesday, 6pm, **December 21** - The Longest Night Worship – music / poetry / candles

Friday, 4pm, **December 24** - Family Christmas Eve

Friday, 8pm, **December 24** - Traditional Christmas Eve

Sunday, 9am, **December 26** - 9am Worship and Carol Sing

December 24 - A Gift Opens Doors — Proverbs 18:16

In the story of God, as we tell it, there is a barrier that exists between the Created world and its Creator. A wall. Sin, we say, separates us from God, and separation from God is unbearable.

And our story goes on to say that God, seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of getting over, or through or around what separates us, offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

What a gift!

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - Youth Triennium is coming! Once every three years the Presbyterian Church USA sponsors a nation-wide gathering of high school youth to worship and learn together. Our presbytery sends a delegation of youth each time to participate in this one of a kind event. The next one takes place July 24-27 of 2022 in Indianapolis, Indiana. We want to see all of our eligible youth take part in this inspiring event. **Our estimate for the amount of youth interested in coming is due by December 6th**, so let Ms. Mindy know if you would like to attend Triennium. Registration opens in February for a firm commitment. We will begin fundraising for this in December. Here is a link to highlights from the last Triennium from 2019. [Youth Triennium 2019 video](#) Here is the website for the coming Triennium 2022. [Youth Triennium 2022](#)

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
CANAAAN 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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