



April 14, 2020

The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

I have seen the face of Christ in Champaign-Urbana this week.

I am so grateful for **your** generous support of the PC(USA)'s **One Great Hour of Sharing** which we collected Easter Sunday for disaster assistance, hunger and the self-development of people. Through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** our local communities are being given emergency relief from the impact of COVID 19.

And, I am so grateful to the huge hearts and amazing organizers of the Champaign-Urbana area. **CU: Better Together** was launched this week to feed more than 1500 families for the next 12 to 16 weeks. You will be reading and hearing more about it in the news. Food pantries, schools, churches and community mission agencies over the past few weeks have been very concerned about food shortages in our families. The need showed up in the school systems, specifically Urbana Unit 116 and Champaign District 4, as they sought to feed children who were sheltered at home due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Our schools realized it was much bigger than they could sustain alone so they reached out to the community for volunteers and financial assistance. Thanks to very savvy, socially minded community leaders and virtual technology Champaign-Urbana came together.

What can we at First Presbyterian Church do? Your Mission Team is already on it. You will be hearing more from them in the next few days. In the meantime, here are four things you can do:

1. Prayer: Continue praying for all aspects of this Pandemic local, state, federal and world wide. Prayers may be specific for a person or family; for a group i.e. Doctors, nurses,, emt's, those in "essential" businesses, etc.; for the church; for the world.

2. Buying the Food: There is a community goal of raising \$250,000 to help pay for the effort to feed those most in need. Persons may "give through their faith community (a check made out to First Presbyterian Champaign with a memo note for CU-Better Together. checks will be collected a check from the church will be made the CU-Better Together effort) or a person may give online to the United Way at <http://www.uwayhelps.org/covid19> or to the Community foundation of East Central Illinois at www.cfeci.org

3. Packaging the Food: This means to be a part of a group effort to prepare the packages of food items that will be distributed. This does **not** mean actually cooking or preparing meals. This will be an ongoing effort Monday through Friday working at the Vineyard Church in Urbana (at the corner of Bradley and Lincoln) to package items that will be distributed through the Champaign Schools and their effort to serve all families with children 18 or under. The effort is expected to run through June so volunteering may be a one day commitment or may be one day per week (for example, every Tuesday morning) or a multiple day per week commitment. We will learn more about this shortly.

4. Distributing the food: This will involve working with the Champaign Schools in their organized way of distributing the food. Again, a person may volunteer for one or more days as described above.

Please know that a similar plan will be in place to serve children and families in Urbana. The dollars donated will be distributed to bot communities. The "packaging" location in Urbana is the Stone Creek Church at Race and Windsor Roads. The distribution will be a part of the Urbana School District's plan.

For more information contact Rachel Matthews (rachel@firstpres.church), Sandy Carr (scar60@msn.com) or John Muirhead (j.muirhead@comcast.net).

Peace,

Rachel Matthews, Temporary Mission Coordinator
First Presbyterian Church Champaign

Let's remember all our mission partners this Easter Season:

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)
Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)
Lifeline Pilots
Marion Medical Mission
Mission Aviation Fellowship
Opportunity International 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 PRISON MINISTRY
THE REFUGEE CENTER
RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY
SALT & LIGHT



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