

THE HEART OF MISSION
First Presbyterian Church Champaign
April 28, 2020



Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba

When you pray for people, and eat with them, and work with them, and invest in their lives, they become like family to you. Our cover picture is not First Presbyterian Church, it is our sister church in Luyano, Cuba. I am feeling a little grief as May approaches because we would be getting ready to go visit them if the pandemic had not changed our plans. This week is Luyano's 98th anniversary. I posted this to our public Facebook page but they are worth celebrating in more than one place! I have had a couple of conversations with friends this week who are going through old files and scrapbooks doing a lot of remembering. Facebook is a kind of photo journal album for some. Many of our mission coworkers and partners have Facebook pages. I pulled a few of them out to share with those of you who do not use Facebook. Others of us have been using zoom to connect with mission partners. If you have never seen a zoom page, take a look at the Friends of PEB. I think you'll recognize a few people!

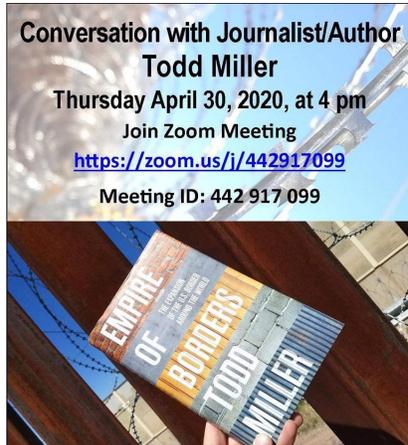
Peace to you all,

Rachel Matthews, Temporary Mission Coordinator
First Presbyterian Church Champaign

Now to Him who is able to do more than we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Our PC(USA) Mission CoWorkers

Mark Adams and Miriam Maidonado Escobar (Mexico)



Fronteria de Cristo has invited us to join them for a Zoom gathering with renowned journalist/author Todd Miller as he shares his insights from two decades of living in the Mexico/US borderlands and investigating the expansion of the border industrial complex to many parts of the world and . . . come prepared to share in imagining a new world.

<https://zoom.us/j/442917099>

Meeting Id: 442 917 099

Limit of 100 Zoom Connections

We also want to encourage you to drink some coffee during the conversation -- **Cafe Justo** of course. Message us or send an email to office@fronteradecristo.org if you would like more information about upcoming specials for home deliveries of Cafe Justo. Enjoy delicious organic coffee from your home and know that you are helping the families of the cooperative weather the economic uncertainties of the time.



Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)

During World Mission meeting last week, We learned that **Bernie (photo at left)**, Farsijanna's husband, is enjoying his retirement. He has sure let his hair grow since we saw him two years ago!

Jeff and Christi Boyd (Central Africa) - Their latest Facebook post is a sharing of a Presbyterian congregation in Cameroon. f you can look this up on UTube it is a very moving as they parade with their palms.

[Jeff'n Christi Boyd](#)

April 5 at 6:27 PM ·

Wanting to share with the many of you who are homebound today our precious memories of the exuberant Palm Sunday celebrations at the Bastos congregation (in Yaounde) of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) .

[Impressions of Palm Sunday celebrations at the Bastos congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon \(PCC\)](#)



YOUTUBE.COM

Palm Sunday - Cameroon

Impressions of Palm Sunday celebrations at the Bastos congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC)

Jo Ella Holman (Caribbean and Cuba) and the Presbyterian Cuba Partnership -

In a recent letter we have been invited to unite with our Cuba brothers and sister in prayer every morning at 9am EDT.

In Cuba the hardships wrought by the embargo are multiplying, causing shortages of food, fuel, and medical supplies and equipment, with more people getting sick every day. The church buildings are closed. People are asked to stay at home. There is no public transportation. It is difficult to keep a distance in the long lines to buy food.

In the face of the pandemic, God's people in Cuba continue to serve and support each other however they can. Churches with Living Waters of The World installations have set up hand-washing stations. They are finding creative ways to deliver water and chlorine so people can disinfect their hands and their homes. The churches send people to shop for the elderly and deliver food to the vulnerable population. Above all, our Cuban sisters and brothers remain united in prayer.

At 9:00 am each morning, Reverend Dora Arce of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) leads pastors in prayer on WhatsApp. In solidarity they pray for our two countries and for our world. They pray for the strength to adapt to this difficult situation, for health, for compassion and the strengthening of our faith in the

Lord. Our sisters and brothers are also accessing daily devotions in [Su Voz](#), daily scripture and reflections by the leadership and laity of the IPRC.

Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba prays for us each morning at 9 a.m. **All of us are invited to increase the multitudes by joining them in prayer each day.**

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan) - They are still working for peace even here in the states. Their cover photos on both of their Facebook pages share the cultural richness of South Sudan. Kristi lifted up an article that discussed how Samaritan Purse who has set up tents in New York City to help with the pandemic response not discriminating against Moslems or LGBTQ in their care. The same article showed a Jewish family who chose to help Samaritan Purse despite criticism from others. She called attention to this and said, "I think we should be able to disagree but still work together, respect each other, and listen to each other." Right on!

Marion Medical Mission had a "shout out" during Mindy and Jip's children's sermon on Earth Day Sunday. We are grateful for Marion Medical Mission's ministry with communities in Malawi to dig wells and bring clean water to needed areas. Check out their Earth Day Facebook post -



[Marion Medical Mission](#)

April 22 at 11:02 AM ·

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface, and yet, 2 billion people don't have safe drinking water. Thank you, donors, for helping us make a difference for over five million people. Together, we make the impossible possible! [#waterislife](#) [#earthday](#) [#cleanwaterforall](#)



Opportunity International is a champion in helping countries in need with education and microfinance and they get to meet some amazing people. In April the Chicago group got to meet Princess Anne, a long time patron of Opportunity International, UK.

Friends of Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan



Our Pakistan group: Education as a Pathway to Peace small group has taken to zooming. Guess what you can do when you zoom? You can have people from all over the world talking at the same time! We had Veda, Director of PEB in Pakistan schools, join us as well as Sohil from Springfield. We have a great time reading books and talking about our Sangla Hill School.

We also remember in prayer these mission areas that were not mentioned this week but who we know are hard at work:

- empty Tomb, inc**
- Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)**
- Lifeline Pilots**
- Mission Aviation Fellowship**
- Special Offerings of the PC(USA)**
- Theological Education Fund**
- Young Adult Volunteers**

Mission Here in Champaign - Urbana

CU at Home in their newsletter had the following praises and prayer requests:

Praises

- Thank you God for the opportunity to breakthrough with one of our friends as he has expressed desire to go into a treatment program and work on his addiction issues!
- Praise the Lord for two of the men in our transitional housing program who are doing INCREDIBLY well and taking advantage of all the opportunities set before them!
- Praise to Jesus for the continued health and safety of our staff and volunteers! We also pray for those who are fighting illness that God would restore them to 100% health as soon as possible!

Prayer

- Would you join us in prayer for four of our friends without addresses (two couples) who are struggling with communication, making positive changes, and addiction. We pray God would work a miracle in all of their lives!
- Please pray for another of our friends on the street who has been banned from some of the few places that are still open leaving him with even fewer places to spend his time. We welcome him at the Phoenix and look to breakthrough with him (hopefully) soon.
- Would you also pray for one of our new friends on the street as he works to make a quick transition from the shelter to his own place? Through the help of his support system, as well as our ministry, we hope to make this a reality

CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE had to cancel their Summer Jazz Festival but they are working on an online concert instead. It is a big fundraiser for them.

CANTEEN RUN

Barb Davies wrote in a recent newsletter, “There is one thing for the Canteen Run, God turns up when you least expect him to. We didn’t have a driver, one shows up; we don’t have any money, some money comes in; we don’t have volunteers, at least one other shows up. Here we are in the situation of the Canteen Run: Here it is on week 4 of the pandemic and we are still running the Canteen Run, with some minor adjustments. We have several people step up in all of the areas. We are so blessed that we can operate on, and quite thankful for that.” They operate out of The Salvation Army at 2212 N. Market St.

Champaign 61820

COURAGE CONNECTION is grateful for new floors from Rector Construction. Remember, “If you are in need of help, we are here for you. Courage Connection's therapy and counseling services are fully operating and are free of charge. If you need someone to talk to please call 1-877- 384-4390 or 217-384-4390”

DREAAM Tracy Dace was in a recent Facebook post -

We are so grateful to be able to do this much-needed work, especially during these challenging times. We are proud to say that DREAAM has delivered over 445 dinner meals to DREAAM families and elderly people in the community.

Special thanks to Jubilee Cafe and UniPlace Church for preparing the meals.



FAITH IN ACTION continues to provide emergency food pantry for Piatt County Residents on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm - 3pm.

If you are in need please call Faith in Action at 217-762-7575 ext 2 or Community Action at 217-762-2421 for a pickup time. Located at 1115 N. State St. Suite 220 Monticello, IL. Feel free to contact us if you have any other questions.

JESUS IS THE PRISON MINISTRY has had a special friend share cherry pies with them! Go to their Facebook page to make your mouth water!

THE REFUGEE CENTER wants us to remember to fill out the census!

Make a difference in our community! Fill out the [#2020Census](#) to help us get funding for better hospitals, stronger schools, & crucial social services. [#MakeILCount](#)



RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY

From [Sheila Anderson](#) and the Nursery Kiddos in support of All Essential workers ♥
Just a Reminder...Please Spread the word that Restoration is Still serving the public food Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10am-1:30pm and clothing is still available Monday-Friday 10am-3pm ♥

SALT & LIGHT says, “we are partnering with the United Way, local churches, and community groups to provide access to food and supplies to families and organizations in need. Offering emergency store credit to our participants is crucial during this time as volunteering is not an option. We are grateful for the support of our central Illinois community every day. “We are excited to announce that Salt & Light gift cards will be available for purchase within the next two months. We listened to your requests and have secured a partnership to have the gift cards produced. These gift cards will be available for purchase at both our Champaign and Urbana locations. Stay tuned for more details!”

How You Can Help?

1. Shop in our store. 100% of the proceeds support our mission.
2. Donate financially.
3. Donate goods. Our donation drive-thrus are self-serve currently to promote physical distancing. Until the shelter at home restrictions are lifted, we are accepting donated goods during the following hours
Champaign: Monday through Saturday 9am-7pm
Urbana: Monday through Saturday 8am-7pm; Sunday 11am-5pm.

Please keep other Ministries of First Presbyterian Church Champaign who are doing mission in your prayers this week:

FPCC Small Groups

FPCC Environmental Committee working with Faith in Place

FPCC Presbyterian Women - Did you know the Joy Circle and the Peace Circle have just had their April Circle meeting on zoom? If you would like to join a circle or attend a zoom meeting even if you have never attended before, put it on your calendar for the 4th Thursday in May. Contact the office and they will get you in touch with the time, link and password.

FPCC ESL

FPCC Children, Youth and Families



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