

The Heart of Missions:

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

November Missions

Events and Meetings

English as a Second Language Classes

Monday through Thursday from 9-11am

Second Floor of Education Building

Week of Thanksgiving, ESL is closed

SAFE House Psychology Classes

3:00pm in Westminster Hall

Mondays, except Thanksgiving week

November 13: Compassion Peace and Justice

5:30 pm in Westminster Hall

November 14: Mission Team

Noon in Westminster Hall

November 20: World Mission

5:30pm in Mae Chapin Parlor

November 20: Environmental Stewardship

3:30pm in Mae Chapin Parlor

November 28: Community Mission Deacons

6:30pm in Westminster Hall

Cuba Steering Committee will not meet in November

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C-U Men's Shelter

The C-U Men's Shelter exists to provide a safe, warm space for our neighbors who are struggling with homelessness to stay during the winter nights.

This work is done in collaboration with many local organizations, faith groups, homeless service providers, and caring individuals.

The shelter will open from 9:30 pm to 6:30 am, every evening from **November 20 — April 14** at New Covenant Fellowship in Champaign. It will be staffed by trained and experienced full-time staff members. However, to make the space most welcoming, we are looking for volunteers who can help out in the following ways:



1) Providing Food: As our friends come in off the street each night, we will provide them with a small, nutritious snack. As such, we are looking for groups who would be willing to supply a week's worth of evening snack and/or breakfast food items for approximately 25 people. This food would need to be non-perishable and prepackaged—such as granola bars, cookies, juice boxes, and trail mix.

2) Evening Registration: This experience is from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm nightly. As men enter the shelter each night, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to assist with registration. This includes greeting the men warmly and entering their information into a form. Registration is done in close supervision of our shelter staff and will be located in the public, common area.

3) Morning Clean-up: This experience is from 6:30 am to 7:30 am on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. As we seek to provide a welcoming environment and to be good stewards of the building of New Covenant Fellowship, it is necessary to deeply clean the shelter area. This work includes sweeping, mopping, general clean-up, and will be done in connection with shelter staff.

As we labor in love, we are grateful for the many community partners who help to make this happen. To volunteer or seek more information, please contact Cory Blackwell at Faith United Methodist Church (cory@champaignfaith.org or at the number below).

1719 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217-359-3631 Email: info@champaignfaith.org
www.champaignfaith.org

HOPE for the Democratic Republic of Congo

Submitted by Ann Stout

HOPE INTERNATIONAL, a Christian microenterprise organization, is one of the ministries supported by World Mission. HOPE's approach is : "In obedience to Christ's command to love our neighbor and make disciples of all nations, HOPE International provides discipleship opportunities, training, a safe place to save, and small loans." The support that FPCC provides to HOPE is directed wholly to the DRC to help raise disenfranchised people out of poverty.

Our interest in the DRC was spawned by our relationship with our African brothers and sisters and it has become clear that the needs in the DRC are extreme. The following information is from one of HOPE's publications:

"As the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) recovers from a crippling five-year war that ended in 2003, instability and fears of civil war remain. The United Nations 2011 Human Development Report ranks DRC last of 187 countries and territories in its human development index, and the 2013 World Bank Doing Business Report once again ranked DRC among the 10 most difficult places on earth to do business. Many workers have been pushed into the informal economy, contributing to the tremendous need for HOPE's services.

Since 2004, HOPE has provided small business loans and savings services to entrepreneurs in DRC, who use loans to make improvements like increasing inventory, investing in assets that will make their business more efficient, or attracting additional customers. HOPE's community banks use the 5W's meeting structure – which incorporates welcome, worship, study and discussion of the Word of God, work (financial transactions), and wrap up."

One reason for their success in DRC is their LM&E program which involves listening, monitoring and evaluating their clients. This enables them to find solutions and innovative strategies to improve their services. In addition, as HOPE is considering additional financial services (such as housing loans and savings plans), they continue to encourage their clients to have strong relationships with local churches.

Most of us are familiar with the saying, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." Christian microfinance is all about "teaching people to fish," empowering them to become independent and self-sufficient. The results are far reaching. Their increased income allows them to live in decent housing, have access to medical care, and educate their children (thus ending the cycle of poverty for that family). And, more importantly, they grow closer to Christ and their ability to support themselves gives them self respect and dignity.

Young Adult Volunteers Shaping the Next Generation of Faithful Leaders

-by Kathy Melvin | Presbyterian News Service

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Source: <https://tinyurl.com/ycjwtn4>

Louisville-Applications are now being accepted for the 2018–2019 Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) class. This is the 25th anniversary of a program that is helping to shape the next generation of globally aware, faithful and passionate leaders.

About 92 percent of YAV alums say their YAV year directly influenced their current vocation. Seventy-nine percent of alums now regularly attend worship, 63 percent report additional participation in congregational life, and 32 percent go on to ordination or pastoral leadership. To date, there are more than 1,700 alums of the program.

Kim Jurczyk, who recently finished service in rural Zambia said, “I am determined to bring these values with me when I return home and keep them as an important part of my identity.” Many YAVs echo similar sentiments.

The YAV program is a one-year service opportunity for young adults ages 19–30, offered through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For the YAVs, the benefits include a year of vocational discernment, the opportunity to live and work outside their comfort zone with the support of an intentional Christian community, time to explore their relationship with God and to live more simply in response to an unsustainable human demand for natural resources.

In the 2017–18 YAV year, there are four international sites and 15 national sites where young adults walk alongside local people of faith who are confronting root causes of poverty, violence and injustice in their communities and witnessing to the gospel by word and deed. It costs about \$22,000 to fully support a YAV for one year. YAV participants are asked to raise around 20 percent of this cost through their own fundraising efforts, and 80 percent is funded through individual donations and the annual Pentecost Offering.



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The program is open to all people in the Christian tradition. About 70 percent of YAVs identify as Presbyterian. Other participants come from a wide variety of denominations, including other mainline Protestant denominations, evangelical Protestant churches, and Catholic and Anabaptist traditions.

The [application](#) requires basic personal and church information, as well as education and employment. Applicants are also asked to answer essay questions that include “why do you think you are a good fit for the YAV program” and “describe an experience you have had with a person or group from another race, religion culture or country and what you learned from that experience.” References are also required.

[Elizabeth Welliver](#), a current YAV serving in [Austin](#), Texas, wrote on her blog:

“As a young adult in the beginning of my career, I chose YAV to learn about the world and my role within it. YAV is a year of immersive education that turns our world upside down and reshapes the people we are becoming. In our retreats and weekly meetings, my housemates and I will challenge and support one another as we develop our understanding of complex issues and examine our core beliefs.”

Along with putting their faith in action, YAVs also learn practical skills like developing healthy habits for budgeting, community living and self-care.

Sherry Ellington is the YAV site coordinator for Zambia. She walked alongside the Zambian YAVs while they struggled, celebrated and grew. “In the end, they look back and realize that they have formed meaningful relationships, forged new levels of personal strength and have experienced Christian life in a setting completely different from how they were raised. Their worldviews have been forever deepened by the experience,” she said.

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To learn more about the YAV program or to complete an application, go to youngadultvolunteers.org and follow [@yavprogram](#) on social media.

Application dates for 2018/2019 YAV year

- Oct. 1, 2017 – Applications Open
- Jan. 1, 2018 – Round 1 – (All sites available, early placement)
- March 1, 2018 – Round 2 – (Most sites available, final date to apply to international sites)
- June 1, 2018 – Round 3 – (National sites only, limited spots available)

Presbyterian Women (PW) wish to THANK the congregation for their support of the DREAAM HOUSE Project. We raised over **\$1000.00** for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The young men of the DREAAM House will benefit from their experience in these STEM groups.

Thank you again.

Charlene Bremer

Presbyterian Women Missions

Are you interested in the opportunity to improve the lives of seniors in our community? At this time, **Faith in Action** (a Community Mission Deacon Partner Agency) is looking for groups of 4-6 volunteers to assist seniors. The volunteers would help with yardwork and light housekeeping during Fall Chore Days. Faith in Action is an interfaith volunteer caregiver program through Presence Health that provides assistance to seniors living independently in Champaign County. Groups are able to select a 2 hour time slot during any weekend in November, until December 10th.

Time Slots Include:

Saturdays (10am - 12pm) **or** (1pm - 3pm)

Sundays (1pm – 3pm) **or** (2pm – 4pm)

Chores may include:

Yard work

Minor painting

Sweeping/mopping

Minor chores

If you are interested in volunteering to please contact Faith in Action with your group's preferred time slot, and how many volunteers you will have at: [\(217\)-337-2778](tel:(217)337-2778) or via email to fia@presencehealth.org

East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center

302 South Birch Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801
Phone (217) 344-8455

October 9, 2017

First Presbyterian Church
302 W. Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Gentleperson:

Please thank the congregation of First Presbyterian for their extremely generous donation of \$1,876.93. Words can't express how vital this donation and your continuing support means to the Refugee Center. The current fiscal situation within the state means that the Center must increasingly rely upon your gifts to fulfill our mission to aid in the resettlement and assimilation of immigrants and refugees in East Central Illinois.

We have compiled the figures for the fourth quarter of FY17. During the fourth quarter we served an additional 293 unduplicated individuals which makes our total of unduplicated individuals at a little over 2000 and approximately 600 families for FY17. In the fourth quarter twenty of the families were new to the agency. We have also been notified that a family of seven will be arriving from Afghanistan later this month and that 3 unaccompanied minors from Guatemala were granted asylum. The local refugee/asylee population continues to grow.

The Saturday Morning Tutoring program officially started on the 23rd. On the 16th there was a volunteer orientation and the buses will start running at 9 a.m. on subsequent Saturdays. Those buses are so appreciated by the families, without easy access to transportation, and staff. The coordinators are looking forward to greeting old friends and meeting new students.

Again thank you for your donations and know that it is increasingly essential for the agency's well-being.

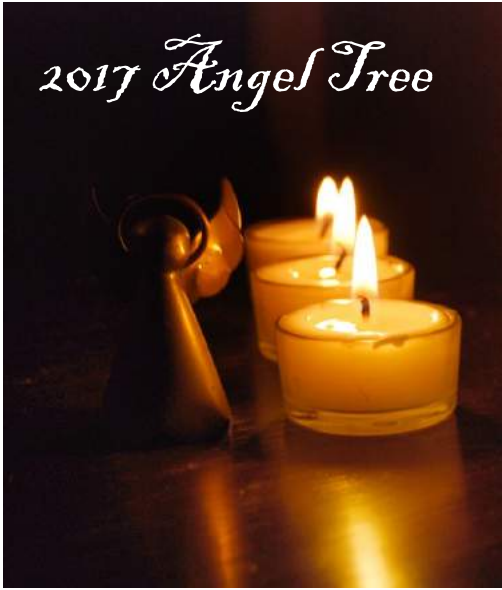
Thank you

Sincerely,

Deborah
Deborah Hlavna

This donation is tax deductible in accordance with State and Federal statutes. ECIRMAC has provided no goods or services of value in return for this donation.

2017 Angel Tree



Christmas is quickly approaching, and FPCC will continue the annual tradition of having an Angel Tree in Westminster Hall. The Angel Tree this year will again be focusing intensively on items from the wish lists of the local agencies that Community Mission Deacons support. Also on the tree are items used for welcoming infants in our church. In light of our decreased Missions budget in 2017, we did not send the agencies as much financial support as the previous year. **Giving through the Angel Tree will be a tangible way to help children and families served by our local community agencies, even with our reduced Missions budget.** I can tell you from my experience last year that these items are greatly appreciated by the agencies.

Each ornament on the tree represents an item on the wish list of a local agency we support or a way to welcome infants in our congregation. You may take as many ornaments as you wish! Please note that there are some duplicated items on the Tree, as some agencies have asked for multiples of the same thing. After you have purchased the item(s), please bring it/them to the church. *Please leave items unwrapped, with the ornament taped to them to serve as a label. Then, place the gifts near the agency's name on the table next to the Angel Tree. This will help make deliveries more efficient and accurate.* **Angel Tree donations of wishlist items will be accepted through Sunday, December 17th.** I plan to hand deliver the items you donate to the agencies the following week, in time for Christmas.

Check donations are also a great choice. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate during worship or sent to the office. ***Just write "First Presbyterian Church of Champaign" as the payee of the check and then make sure to write the agency's name in the memo line.*** Ann, our wonderful bookkeeper, will then send a check for the entire amount donated to that agency by congregants as an extra donation to the agency from the church.

We plan to have the Angel Tree up the Sunday after Thanksgiving, so you have time to shop before the December rush.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity! You truly make a difference!

Kristi Corbin
Missions Coordinator