



Small groups at First Presbyterian Church have continued to support one another as the pandemic restrictions have continued. One of these groups is the Monday Munchers, a mission-minded group with a thirty year history of yearly visiting Presbyterian camps in need of repair and fixing things, who “before Covid” ate together in a different CU diner every Monday at 5pm throughout the year. These guys have been helping with small repairs around this church during the pandemic. Bill Gamble has kindly kept us informed of comings and goings. Most recently we learned, “The kitchen project hit a snag related to an A/C unit, with completion of the prime contract now expected by the end of the month. Then equipment installation will begin.” and “Session approved a project to repair and paint the east main doors and do several repairs on the east steps.” It is nice to know work continues. Thank you all!

I learned this week that in the 1960’s Ginny Tutje’s brother, Harold P. Nebelsick, was on staff at the Near Eastern School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago in the Heart of Mission newsletter after the explosion in Beirut. (He was a Professor of Doctrinal Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.) Interesting fact: Beirut is the modern city that in the Bible is referred to as Laodicea. The World Mission Committee is sending support to Beirut through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Anyone who wishes to give to Beirut is invited to give directly to PDA. Contribute to: Disaster Relief-Lebanon/Syria (DR000007). To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Finally, Jesus Is the Way Prison Ministry’s FIRST EVER Facebook Live event is on Friday, Aug.28 at 6pm. <https://www.facebook.com/Jesus-is-the-Way-Prison-Ministry-1594891964064517/>

Peace,

Rachel Matthews, Temporary Mission Coordinator

Our Mission Agencies Announcements:

Courage Connection: If you or someone you love need help, please call Courage Connection's Domestic HOTLINE (217)384-4390 OR (877)384-4390

Cuba Partner Network Virtual Gathering 2020 - The PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network Virtual Gathering: *Celebrating our Connections in the Time of COVID*, will be held via Zoom webinar, September 25 -26, 2020. Registration is \$20 for all three days. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rachel@firstpres.church for the registration link.

ESL (English as a Second Language) will be virtual through December. They are on break right now but are planning for an active and busy Fall. If you would like to tutor or have an interest in strengthening your English as a second language contact our ESL Director Jeanette Pyne at Jeanette@firstpres.church

Presbyterian Women – Time to order study books. Two ways – Subscribe to Horizon or email Rachel@firstpres.church this week to order a book.

PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency

On Aug. 28, 2020, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be joining #Give828, a national day of giving focused specifically on supporting Black-benefiting organizations. #Give828 isn't like other fundraising campaigns. This day takes place during Black Philanthropy Month and commemorates multiple important historical landmarks in Black Americans' march toward freedom. Did you know that on:

- Aug. 28, 1955: 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered by three white men, which became a "flashpoint in the civil rights movement"?
- Aug. 28, 1963: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech during the landmark March on Washington in Washington, D.C.?
- Aug. 28, 2005: Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana? The storm, which devastated New Orleans, inordinately impacted many of the city's Black residents.
- Aug. 28, 2008: Then-Sen. Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for president, becoming the first Black man to ever win the nomination and bid for the presidency?

Your gifts to #Give828 will go to support [leadership development for leaders of color](#) by funding the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and the Conference for Seminarians of Color. Donating to the campaign is one of the action steps you can take as a part of the [Presbyterian Week of Action](#), Aug. 24–30.

Go to pcusa.org/weekofaction for more information on the Presbyterian Week of Action.

Coffee & Conversation Continues Café y Conversación Continúa



Email "conversation" to office@fronteradecristo.org
to get the Zoom link

Frontera de Cristo –

Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry – The Annual Celebration-Fundraising Banquet will be online this year on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 6-8pm. There are some things you can do to join in and take part:

- JOIN US in watching our FIRST EVER Facebook Live event at
<https://www.facebook.com/Jesus-is-the-Way-Prison-Ministry-1594891964064517/>
on Friday Aug. 28th at 6pm
- Hosting a watch party at your home or church on Friday Aug. 28th at 6pm
- Watch and share the LIVE feed on your Facebook page for your friends and family to view on Friday Aug. 28th at 6pm -- (This is a GREAT way to help not only spread the message of JITWPM BUT also share some amazing testimonies of how GOD

is transforming lives for HIS glory and help encourage others to know they also can be set FREE)

- Donate silent auction service and/or products
- Host a “Drive-By” to support the evening and drop off monetary donations, items for our blessing room, non-perishable food for our food pantry, etc.
- Give a love offering to “JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY” to help meet any expenses of this special event and the continued daily costs to keep the ministry going forward

Steve Gritten has written this about Jesus Is the Way -

Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries is an important ministry of our congregation. They are having their annual Celebration/Fund Raiser this Friday, August 28, beginning at 6:00pm. Via Facebook due to Covid-19. This is their primary fund raiser for the year and due to the Pandemic, fund raising is a challenge for them. We hope each of you will join them by Facebook if you are in town and/send them a generous check to help them out. You may join them at: [https://www.facebook.com/Jesus is the Way Prison Minisstry-1594891964064517](https://www.facebook.com/Jesus%20is%20the%20Way%20Prison%20Ministry-1594891964064517).

For those of you new to our congregation and/or community, here is a description of who they are and why they are important to our community. Founded in 1977, and located in Rantoul along the west side of Route 45 as you enter Rantoul from the south, they occupy a former Holiday Inn Motel. Their goal is to reduce repeated prison cycles by male offenders by accepting parolees who feel the need to change their lives by offering a temporary life structure which many of them have never witnessed. Key to the program is immersing them into a study of the Bible for which many of them have never known. This part of their ministry begins with approximately 40 volunteers that go into the correctional facilities in Douglas, Ford, Piatt and Champaign counties. There, they meet men who say they want something different in their lives. Many of these gentlemen become the residents for approximately 18 month at the Rantoul facility.

In addition to their initial awareness of this man Jesus and the Bible through studies and devotions, they are also taught the various life skills needed to become model citizens on their own from cooking, housekeeping, learning to get along with others, plus such topics as anger management, financial management, plus skills necessary to get and keep a job.

Following the initial intense training, they are allowed to get employment with various Rantoul Companies. as they continue to study and work at the Rantoul facility. Upon graduation, there are several Rantoul companies eager to hire them as these companies know and respect the quality of workers that Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries provide. Their success rate is very high. Of course, a very few wash out at the beginning, because the effort needed to succeed in

the program is way more than they bargained for. This number is extremely small due to an intensive interview they must pass before they are accepted. Please consider this important ministry to our local communities and give generously as you are able. You may give directly to them or via our church.

Canaan S.A.F.E. House: *In an effort to help people break free from controlling addictions and troublesome habits, members of the Champaign-Urbana Christian community joined together in the creation of SAFE House (Substance Abuse Free Environment). We have experienced successful results since the inception of the Program in February 1994. The residents who were a menace to society are now ministering to society. What a testimony! We offer separate 12-month live-in Men's SAFE House and Women's SAFE House programs that incorporate a structured daily regiment of: G.E.D., and/or adult education, devotions, group therapy, personal counseling, volunteer work projects, evening community-wide personal enrichment courses, and weekly worship services. The enabling power of the Holy Spirit helps them break free from controlling addictions and troublesome habits. <https://www.facebook.com/canaansafehouse>*

The fourth weekend in August is typically when S.A.F.E.House has their annual Jazz Benefit at Hessel Park. We are saddened this year that due to COVID19 that has been cancelled. Nevertheless, the ministry at S.A.F.E.House continues. Brother Tatum the pastor at the Canaan Baptist Church has overcome some health issues this year and for that we are grateful. We keep him and the entire ministry in our prayers.

CU at Home - February 5, 2021 will be the 10th anniversary of One Winter Night. I thought CU at Home's recent reminder was an important thing to include in its entirety this week:

10 years ago . . .

C-U at Home first organized an event that allowed anyone in the community to learn first hand what it is like to be on the streets without a home on a cold winter's night. Our hope was that this very personal experience would generate empathy, compassion, and support for those who live this reality 24/7.

10 years later . . .

Our annual One Winter Night event has given more than 1000 different community members the opportunity to support our mission to house and support the most vulnerable homeless on their journey of healing and restoration. The unusual circumstances of the past year present us with unprecedented challenges as we prepare for the 10th Annual One Winter Night event on February 5, 2021. Our planning team is working on creative ways we can expand our capacity by spreading the box dwelling experience to churches, neighborhoods, and homes throughout our community. Rest assured, One Winter Night 2021 will be as exciting and fulfilling as ever!

How You Can Help

- Pray for God's guidance and grace for our planning team.
- Pray that God will raise up businesses and organizations in the community to come alongside us in support of the event.

· Prayerfully consider becoming involved yourself, perhaps for the first time, as a participant in what we hope will be the most exciting and impactful One Winter Night so far!

[Click here to read about last year's OWN 2020 experience >>](#)

https://www.cuathome.us/one-winter-night/?blm_aid=253367297

So Far This Year...

Your support has helped make a difference in your community! Here are some important ways your help has impacted lives in meaningful ways. Click on the icons below to learn more details about our work.

Men/Women served by our emergency shelters: over 500

Individuals/families helped with transitional housing: 19

Individuals blessed by our Phoenix drop-in center: over 400

Prayer

- Would you join us in prayer for our local law enforcement officers as they work alongside us in the trenches and put their lives on the line each and every day?
- Please pray for one of our friends who has sickle cell disease and just found out. We ask God's comfort and healing as she begins to process of finding out what her next steps might be.
- Would you also pray for two of our longtime friends on the street, that we would be able to complete all necessary paperwork and complete their search for housing very soon! Working with these two men has been a blessing and to see them in their own apartments would truly be diving intervention!

Praises

- Thank you God that our "Hope Givers" monthly giving campaign has reached 10% of our overall goal with 60 people joining the team out of 600! Praise God for the 60 people who have committed at least \$40/month to support our year-round emergency shelter initiative! Click [here](#) to help us reach this goal and ensure year-round shelter is available now AND in the future!
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to help a family of 6 get back to Milwaukee and not end up on the streets of Champaign!
- Praise to Jesus for our partnership with the Champaign Police Department and our Austin's Place women's shelter as we continue find ways to get our female friends on the street the help they need, even in emergency situations!

Other Mission Opportunities around town –

**Twice is Nice Thrift Store is
Open for Porch Sales
607 W. Elm St.,
Urbana**

Saturdays August 22, 29, Sept.12, 19, 26
From 10am-2pm

Featured Items:

Aug. 22 Kitchen, Appliances, Yard
Aug. 29 Bed linens, Towels, Rugs, Kitchen linen
Sept 12 Electronics, Decorative (wall and other)
Sept 19 Puzzles, Games, Toys, Books Stationery
Sept 26 Winter apparel, Holiday

We are not closed for good, just exercising extreme caution in these difficult times. We will not be opening the shop itself until we are safe. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

We have missed you and hope to see many old and new friends at one or all of our porch sales. Cash and checks only.

We will be requiring masks, limited numbers on the porch and providing hand sanitizer for use before and after shopping.

International Friendships, Inc – Several FPCC members were interested in participating in connecting and welcoming international students arriving at the University of Illinois. International Friendships is an organization that is seeking to do that. You may be interested in the following flyer being passed out to arriving students.

<https://uiuc.ifiusa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/08/International-Friends-Flyer-Final-Proof-8-12-20.pdf>

The City Director of IFI, Bill Erickson, writes, “IFI is endeavoring to offer our new international students, as well as our local volunteers, several options in how they can connect in friendship during this unique academic year. Friendship partnering will be initiated through visiting on the phone or computer. Outdoor activities can provide settings to meet in person. Please click on this link and let us know if you can help in some way that fits your personal abilities and circumstances. We will need help with personally greeting students on campus over the next few weeks. We will also need many friendship partners willing to connect with new students remotely as they respond to IFI's invitation for friendship. In looking at our adapted approach to outreach for this fall, will you consider how you might participate?”

Bill's information is
Cell phone: (217) 621-3846

Email: b.erickson@ifiusa.org
Local U of I volunteer website: cu.ifipartners.org
Local U of I student website: uiuc.ifiusa.org
National website: ifipartners.org

TWICE IS NICE THRIFT SHOP OPEN PORCH SALES

607 W. Elm Street, Urbana

**Saturdays August 22, 29, September 12, 19
From 10:00-2:00**

FEATURED ITEMS:

August 22	Kitchen, Appliances, Yard
August 29	Bed linens, Towels, Rugs, Kitchen linens
September 12	Electronics, Decorative (wall and other)
September 19	Puzzles, Games, Toys, Books, Stationery
September 26	Winter Apparel, Holiday

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Let us 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)
Jo Ella Holman (Caribbean and Cuba)
Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

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 Better Together
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



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