



The Heart *Of Missions*

DECEMBER 2018– FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Connecting and Giving: Donations from Amazon Smile and Schucks

Our church has a long tradition of providing food deliveries to those in an emergency situation in the CU area. Each week, volunteers from our congregation are called from Empty Tomb and asked to deliver to someone in need. Maybe the care recipient has mental health issues. Maybe they are a family who experienced being laid off. Maybe they have had a sick family member and the costs are so high, it is affecting their ability to purchase food. There are so many reasons why people end up in a situation needing assistance. Regardless of the situation, our volunteers go to the grocery store, purchase items the family will enjoy, and hand deliver them to the front door.

These food deliveries cost approximately \$75 per delivery. These deliveries are funded in part by a free

mechanism: Amazon and Schnucks! How are they free? When you choose our church as a recipient of Amazon Smile on your amazon account and then you purchase your needed items, the church receives a small donation from Amazon. (Directions are here firstpres.church/amazon-smile/) When you make your normal purchases at Schnucks and you scan your escrip card at checkout, if you have chosen our church as a recipient of the card's donations, Schnucks makes a donation to the church. It is as easy as that!

How much does this help? The church already received over \$1,000 this year from these two mechanisms. If more of our church signs up, the income will only increase. Remember, it is free if you are already making purchases at these to businesses. Happy shopping!

Advent Offering will be taken All Sundays of Advent to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Angel Tree donations will be accepted through December 16th. All ornaments were taken the first Sunday, so more have been added. Thanks for your generosity! Pick up your ornament from the Christmas Tree Westminster Hall, purchase the item(s) and return the donation(s) unwrapped to the table beside the tree by December 16.

Christmas Joy Offering will be taken on Christmas Eve to help retired church workers and future church leaders.

ESL Program Updates

During this past semester, I gave a "Teaching ESL Basics" training orientation with nearly all the tutors in the program. In the training, the tutors learned that research has shown the more that we can make learning meaningful and authentic for the students, the better they will learn. Moreover, students really need to be communicating more in English to improve their language skills. In the evaluation, tutors said that the training was helpful and that they learned something new. This support has been really important for our tutors, and I intend to improve upon the training based on the tutors' evaluations.

One of our tutors, Linda Sims, created a pronunciation handbook specifically designed for our program. Due to her wonderful pronunciation handbook, we were

also able to make a much-needed change to the schedule. We have made the first 30 minutes our café and conversation time and extended the students' class time, so now students are in their small group classes for an hour and 20 minutes. This allows tutors to include Linda's pronunciation lessons in the class. There has been a very positive reception of Linda's pronunciation handbook and this change in the schedule and from both tutors and students.

Fellowship is a big part of the First Pres ESL Program because it allows us to get to know each other better and grow deeper relationships. The Thanksgiving Potluck Party was a huge success. We had 3 long rectangular tables full of food! One of the activities we did was particularly fun. This activity was a

difficult trivia quiz about Thanksgiving. Did you know that the first Thanksgiving feast actually lasted 3 days? After the trivia quiz and prizes, we discussed what the tutors and students were thankful for. One student, Maria, said that when she is not at the program, she feels sad and lonely. However, when she comes to the program, the front door is like a "magic door" because these negative feelings are replaced with feelings of happiness. This program positively affects the students who come and changes their lives. They love coming and feel safe to learn here. Thank you for supporting this program and its students.

By Jeanette Pyne, ESL Coordinator



(Left to Right) Eri, Patricia, Diem, Anne, and Mike are trying to complete the Thanksgiving Trivia Quiz.



(Left to Right) Roma, Jorge, Ron, and Sam are getting food at the potluck party

Upcoming Events

As we consider look upon the arrival of the New Year, remember that we have important mission events on the horizon. Cuba Partners will be doing some fun fundraising activities in the early Spring. Mission Possible will be planning their 2019 mission trip. Consider how you might be involved in these worthy mission programs.

Presbyterian Women have a longstanding and strong mission program. They are currently accepting donations for infants to be donated to Empty Tomb and distributed to mothers and infants in need. PW is accepting: six to twelve month sleepers, socks/booties, bibs, receiving blankets, onesies, undershirts and accessories such as pacifiers and small toys. Please put donations in a basket in the Mission Closet labeled "Layettes."