



The Heart *Of Missions*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN-
SEPTEMBER 2018

Hearts, Hands and Voices: A Community Together

Frequently Asked Questions, Answered

- When and Where? 10:15am-12:45pm in Centennial Hall (overflow to Westminster)
- Who? Church members, frequent attendees, first time visitors, ESL students, adults, children and anyone in between
- Why? For fellowship, worship, and doing God's work with our hands
- Is there food? Food trucks and Kona Ice will be available in the alley. A donation box will be provided.
- How will it be organized? Leaders will wear lanyards with their duty and name on them. At registration, General Volunteers will receive nametags with colors on them that correspond to a project. General Volunteers will then go to their clearly labeled assigned project space, receive instructions from their Project Leader, and then start working. A "runner" will check tables to get more supplies and a "boxer" will take away completed items throughout the event. Groups will take turns at assigned times to eat outside in 30 minute increments. Seating will be provided outside. Those who have eaten will return at an assigned time, and the next group goes out to eat. As those who have eaten return, they will be directed as to which project to work on next. Interspersed, there will be worship elements such as prayer and music.
- Who will lead? Pastor Matt will be our head leader, leading us in worship, giving us directions on transitions between activities, leading us in prayer, etc.

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- Will all generations participate? YES! This is an intentional intergenerational event. Children Youth and Family volunteers will be available at any table with a child participating to help with supervision. Seating will be provided to make work easy for those who can't stand the whole time. There is no heavy lifting for General Volunteers and no project requires any special skill beyond simple counting and basic reading.
- How were the projects chosen? After contacting agencies directly to see what was most needed and reviewing all agencies/missions we support in World Mission and Community Missions, we chose projects that met those needs and were easily done in two hours with intergenerational volunteers. All agencies receiving these projects are supported by Community Mission Deacons or World Mission or have received funding through the Forward 150 Mission Funds.
- Finally, what projects will we be completing and for which agencies?

Canteen Run: 100 blessing bags filled with toiletries to be passed out to those currently without an address. These are always needed. Canteen Run meets people where they are: on the streets.

Crisis Nursery: 75 blessing bags with toiletries and socks for young children to be passed out to children at risk of abuse or neglect. This will supply about two weeks' worth for them.

Courage Connection: 50 blessing bags filled with toiletries to be passed out to women at Austin's Place (a women's overnight emergency shelter) this winter. We will also fill 24 large bags with full sized hair care products for African American women and children in Courage Connection's residential program who are escaping domestic violence and homelessness; Courage Connection rarely gets hair care products donated for African American women.

DREAAM: Mission Possible is providing a hand-made hope chest to keep items in for the young children in this prevention program. We will stamp inspirational journals and books to be placed in the hope chest.

Faith in Action: We will place gift soap, tissue, and Christmas cards and stamps in in gift bag to be given to 30 lonely seniors during Advent. They can enjoy the small gift of soap and tissue and then send cards to their loved ones without hardship. This was a need suggested that we could fill by Faith in Action.

Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry: We will place provided books about the Christmas story into gift bags, along with a small toy and some candy. These bags will be given to 120 children who have a parent who is incarcerated at Christmas.

Salt & Light: We will be hand tying approximately 100 hats and scarves to be donated to the thrift shop. Salt & Light informed us they "fly off the shelves" and they "never have enough" in the winter.

Women's SAFE House: Twenty-four women trying to recover from substance addiction will receive gift bags with full size toiletries to help them with self-care on their journey to recovery. These are always needed.

Mission Co-Workers: We will write notes of encouragement to current co-workers serving internationally.

Teacher's Day

Volunteer tutors are the backbone of the First Pres ESL Program. Without them, we could not serve the 50-60 some students who attend our classes every week. Because they are so integral to the program, I had thought about how I and the students could show the volunteer tutors our appreciation for their dedication and service to the First Pres ESL Program.

I thought, "What about a surprise Teacher's Day celebration for the tutors?" With my wonderful volunteer assistant's help, we were able to distract the tutors while I told the students my plan. They would bring a dish from their country and would secretly sign thank you cards for their tutors after class. The party was set for May 8th, which is National Teacher's Day in the US.



On May 8th, many of the tutors came thinking it was a graduation party for our students. (Don't worry. I planned a graduation party for later that week.) Needless to say, the tutors were surprised by the festivities and the thoughtful thank you cards that the students wrote. For the rest of the party, we completed a trivia quiz based on fun facts about the tutors, chatted, and ate scrumptious food from different countries.

This is one of my favorite memories of the First Pres ESL Program because the students got to honor the volunteer tutors and show their gratitude for their service. The students understand that the volunteer tutors' sacrifice and service is free, and they greatly appreciate it.

The First Pres ESL Program is a place where everyone comes together to learn, not just about English but about the students' cultures and customs. We are starting a new school year and began our ESL classes in



August. We are always looking for more open-minded and servant-hearted volunteer tutors. If you are interested in learning more about how to volunteer tutor and positively impact a student's life, contact Jeanette Pyne, the ESL Coordinator, jeanette@firstpres.church.



Announcements

- Crisis Nursery is looking for volunteers to keep children safe overnight. Please contact Jill Duden at jduden@crisisnursery.net or 217-337-3721 if interested.
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- Veda Gill, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan, will be visiting with us in early October. Be on the lookout for announcements and flyers about special events during her visit.
- A member of Tracy Dace's DREAM House Team needs a reliable car. He can pay \$3,000 cash, or \$1,200 down and \$250 per month. If you have a reliable car you can sell inexpensively for an upwardly mobile young person, give me a call. Thanks: Pastor Matt Matthews
- Items are flying off the shelves in the empty tomb Clothing Room, and they are in need of your gently used clothing. Men's, women's, and children's spring/summer clothing is welcome. They also accept winter coats and button-down, long sleeved shirts year round. They also welcome donations of shoes and household goods. All items are given away free in Jesus' name. Empty tomb donation hours are 9am to 12:30pm and 2:15pm to 5:15pm, Monday through Saturday. They are located at 301 N. Fourth Street in Champaign. Call 356-2262 for more information.