

December 2019



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## *December Worship*

Sunday, December 8

9 AM Worship

11:15 AM The Gathering

6 PM Service of Wholeness

Sunday, December 15

9 AM Music Sunday/Cookie Sale

11:15 AM The Gathering

Sunday, December 22

9 AM Worship/Children's Pageant

...only ONE service

Tuesday, December 24

10 AM Worship/Chapel

4 PM Family Worship

8 PM Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 29

9 AM Worship...only ONE service

MAY THE GIFT OF

## *His Presence*

BE WITH YOU THIS CHRISTMAS  
AND EVERY DAY OF THE NEW YEAR!

### YOUR STAFF...

*George Almasi*

*Eric Corbin*

*Ritchie Drennen*

*Patty Farthing*

*Robert Ferrer*

*Fred Foster*

*Marcia Franks*

*Joe Grant*

*Matt Matthews*

*Rachel Matthews*

*Blaise Pascal*

*Ann Petry*

*Lizz Pippin*

*Jason Pope*

*Jeanette Pyne*

*Richard Rossi*

*Damen Rowell*

*Mindy Watts-Ellis*

## Advent Service for Wholeness

BY JUDI GIESTLINGER, CHAIR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

JUDIGESTLINGER@OUTLOOK.COM

Our second Advent service for Wholeness will be Sunday evening December 8 at 6 PM.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says God”

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

It's okay to come to church to celebrate the glory of the incarnation while knowing that it's okay to bring our sadnesses, too. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays. We invite all to join us for this service, to help one another make it through the shorter, darker days as we approach the Nativity of our Lord.

We will have time to come forward to light candles, to pray.

The Service of Wholeness and Healing with the theme of “Blue Christmas” will be held this Sunday. The service will last about one hour. All are invited; bring a friend who might appreciate a quiet service.

**Liturgists, Tech Team, Greeters, and Ushers could use volunteers, especially during the holidays. If you are willing, contact Judi Geistlinger: [judgeistlinger@outlook.com](mailto:judgeistlinger@outlook.com) or 217-493-5462.**



**Maybe traditional worship services don't offer what you are looking for in church.**



## UNUSUAL WORSHIP

**First Monday of the Month—7:00 pm**

**At The Phoenix**

**70 E. Washington St. Champaign**

**Gather with our Friends Without an Address to discuss how Christianity Relates to Everyday Life!**

**Brought to you by the folks from CU@Home and Faith UMC!**

**Join us for Fellowship, Fun, Food, & Friends**

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois invites you and your family to join us for a **Fellowship Event** from 4:00pm – 6:30pm on either Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> in Champaign or Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in Carbondale.

The Presbytery will be providing light refreshments, and drinks (non-alcoholic and alcoholic) for everyone's enjoyment. You are welcome to bring something to share if there is something you want to make sure is available.

Thursday, December 12 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 6:30pm	Friday, December 13 <sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 6:30pm
McKinley Presbyterian 809 S. Fifth Street Champaign, IL 61820	First Presbyterian 310 S. University Avenue Carbondale, IL 62901

If you have questions, please contact the Presbytery Office.

# Congregational Life

## Outreach

BY BOB KIRBY, OUTREACH  
RWK3213@GMAIL.COM

## Conversation Partners

Are you a native English Speaker? Do you enjoy meeting young people from other countries?

Conversation partners meet with English learners who can already communicate in English but want to practice their skills. Conversation groups meet at various times and places but in most cases you can come when your schedule allows or you can develop your own group at a time and place convenient for you. To learn more contact **Bob Kirby**, Outreach Committee, at [rwk3213@gmail.com](mailto:rwk3213@gmail.com) or 217-621-5915.

## Strangers At Dinner

Interested in something different during the holidays? International students welcome the hospitality of our community as they explore our culture and meet our people. Some students remain on campus over the winter break and particularly value an opportunity to have dinner with locals. Are you interested in hosting several students for a special meal during our holiday season? Hosts are needed in the period of November 23 to January 20. To learn more contact **Bob Kirby**, Outreach Committee, at [rwk3213@gmail.com](mailto:rwk3213@gmail.com) or 217-621-5915.

## Adult Ed

BY BETTY HOLLISTER, CHAIR SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
B.HOLL@MCHSI.COM

December offerings from your Spiritual Formation Team include an Advent Study and Prayer Stations in Westminster. Join us in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 10:15 to discuss *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia Campbell. **Judi**

**Geistlinger** will be facilitating.

Didn't get the book? No worries. Join us anyway. The seven prayer stations in Westminster focus on many facets of this holiest of seasons. Since we can't count on cooperative weather for an outdoor prayer walk, stop in Westminster. Absorb the poetry and art at each station. Do as many of the suggested activities as you like. Let the station focus your prayers to prioritize your thoughts this hectic month.

Your Spiritual Formation team is always looking for volunteers to lead activities. How about serving as an informal discussion leader for "after worship service get-togethers to rehash the scripture and sermon?" Please contact **Betty Hollister** ([b.holl@mediacombb.net](mailto:b.holl@mediacombb.net)) if you would be willing to lead our AfterWord discussion groups or any other study.



Advent Prayer stations in Westminster Hall...stop by Sunday mornings.



Presbyterian men at Tuesday breakfast bible study. Other men's ministries are Thursday morning bible study and Friday morning prayer group.

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF CYF  
mindy@firstpres.church

### Sunday School

December will bring the unit 'Jesus is God's Son' for the preschool and Kindergarten class. The elementary kids will study the story of the birth of Jesus. The Middle school will explore the questions "Why did Jesus go to hell?" and "Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?" The confirmation class will study the concept that Jesus Saves. The high school will be studying the Psalms.

### Mission

Our children and youth worked together with all other willing volunteers to assemble 120 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance December 1 in Westminster Hall from 10:15-11:00. The items were purchased with a generous donation from our Presbyterian Women and the World Mission committee. The finished kits were sent to Little Rock, AR to Ferncliff Camp where the closest distribution warehouse is located. From there, they will be sent to refugees of human-made or natural disasters in need near and far.

### Confirmation Mentors needed

CYF is seeking faith-filled adults to pair with our confirmands to serve as mentors. Confirmation mentors walk along side their student as a friend and gentle guide as the student defines what he/she believes and begins to write his/her statement of faith. You don't need to have all the answers, on the contrary, you are to share your struggles as an ordinary person trying to live a life of faith. Mentors are encouraged to be in contact with their student once a week to share news and do something fun together occasionally. Mentors are asked to be present at the worship service when the confirmands who have decided to join the church are received as members May 31. We have 6

female and 1 male student currently in the class. Contact **Mindy Watts-Ellis** for more details and to volunteer.

### Christmas Events

The children will present their nativity pageant on December 22 at the 9am worship service. We will have a special time of making candy houses after the 9am worship on December 22 in Westminster hall. This activity will be open for all ages from 10:15 - 11am!

CYF adopted a new mission statement that has been approved by Session. (See pages 10-11.)

### Youth Group

LIZZ PIPPIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
LIZZ@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

November seemed to fly by! Where has the time gone and how is it that we are already preparing for Advent and Christmas? This past month was quiet for the youth group. Each group only met a couple of times this past month due to the Confirmation retreat and work schedules for our high schoolers. But the times we were able to meet were filled with fellowship. I love getting to know our youth. They have a wide variety of interests and talents. Youth group is a special time to get to know the youth and their interests a little better and check-in with how they are doing. Sunday evening youth group will be wrapping up for the fall semester in a couple of weeks with December 1 and 8 being our only meetings this month.

In December, we are going to host an Advent reflection with the high school students. Advent Fridays will happen on Fridays after school at the home of **Sabrina Hwu**. We will spend some time in fellowship and reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as they pertain to Advent.

Mark your calendars! It's that time of year again! Christmas Cookie Sale will be Sunday, December 15. Plan to stock up

on all your Christmas Cookie needs and support our summer Go and Serve Trip to Memphis, TN to work with Memphis Youth Mission. A parent meeting for the summer Go and Serve trip will be held on Sunday, December 8, at 11:15 AM in Room 205.

High school students are invited to apply to attend the Lux Summer Theological Institute next summer at PC(USA)-related Monmouth College (Monmouth, IL). You will spend two weeks on the campus studying environmental justice and theology with peers from around the country. The program, "A New Earth: Thinking Theologically about Environmental Justice" runs from June 14-28, 2020 and scholarships are available. Applications will be due by January 1st. If you are interested in attending contact **Mindy Watts-Ellis** or **Lizz Pippin** by December 8. **Audrey Mfulama** went last summer and can share her experience with you if you are curious.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is seeking a part-time child care worker to serve in the nursery and toddler rooms for Sunday mornings to begin in December. All applicants must be legally eligible to work in the United States, fill out an application for employment, and supply the names and contact information of two references. Potential employees must consent to a background check. Inquiries can be made to **Mindy Watts-Ellis** at mindy@firstpres.church.



**Nehemiah 8:10**

**...the joy of the Lord is your strength.**

**Philippians 4:4**

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**

**God showed His love by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. That is the gift we all need to share.**

**May we rejoice, experience joy and share Jesus' love. AMEN.**

## *Joys & Concerns*

### *Get in the Spirit of Christmas*

**Our Sanctuary Choir accompanied by orchestra will present the Vivaldi Magnificat on Sunday, December 15, at the 9 AM service.**

*We express our sympathy to the family and friends of...*

- **Richard Johnson** who died Monday, November 11, 2019.
- **Fred Foster** (our night custodian) whose life partner Gwendolyn Mitchell died Wednesday, November 27, 2019.
- **Damen Rowell** (night custodian) on the recent death of his grandmother.

# Mission Updates

## Mission News

BY RACHEL MATTHEWS,

TEMPORARY MISSION COORDINATOR

RACHEL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*  
—Matthew 25: 35-36 (NIV), RUM brochure

This year's Advent Offering is going to one of our community mission agencies, Restoration Urban Ministries. Restoration Urban Ministries was established in 1993 by **Reverend Ervin T. Williams**, Executive Director. First Presbyterian Church Champaign has had a relationship with R.U.M. for many, many years. Their website says, "The outreach program began by serving food from the back of a truck in 1993. The residential program began the same year in a four-bedroom house. It moved to a small apartment building and grew into a 22-unit motel. It transferred to its current location in 1997 at 1206 and 1213 Parkland Ct., Champaign, IL. In 2004, RUM acquired a 10,000 square foot warehouse at 1208 Parkland Ct. to provide worship, classrooms, childcare, and offices that were previously housed in rented space on Mattis Avenue. Currently, three different churches converge in this facility for worship on Sundays."

R.U.M.'s mission is "to provide physical assistance, friendship, and a sense of family purpose to the homeless." The overall goal of the program is "to give the opportunity to learn that they are just as capable as anyone else to live a full and complete life, having within themselves the God-given abilities that our Sovereign Lord has instilled in all of us."

R.U.M. offers transitional housing, a food pantry, clothing and household goods, a substance abuse recovery group, men and

women's groups, an afterschool program, teen programs, church services, bible studies, computer skills training and numerous worship services every day. Their website is <https://www.restorationurbanministries.org/>

The Advent Offering occurs every Sunday of Advent. Please write "Advent Offering" in the memo of your check or on the front of a regular offering envelope, along with your name if donating cash. At the end of the offering period, the total is tallied by the bookkeeper and the amount will be sent to Restoration Urban Ministry.

## Green Team Update

BY CLEMMIE ACKERMANN,

MEMBER ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

CLEMMIE1814@YAHOO.COM

### Styrofoam Sunday

Over the holidays, many of us head to stores and the internet to buy food, gifts and decorations. These items are often shipped and packaged with styrofoam. The Green Team is taking advantage of the season with the hope you'll help us help the environment. Until January 5, please collect and save at home styrofoam block packaging, cups and food containers that are clean and dry and imprinted with a #6 and chasing arrow. Bring your styrofoam to church for recycling on Styrofoam Sunday.

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Westminster Hall 8 AM – 12 PM

Centennial Hall 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

Recycling styrofoam containers, cups and block foam...NO packaging peanuts!

Food containers...

- Must be clean and dry
- Must have #6 Chasing Arrow
- Remove straws, lids, tape or any other non-foam material

Green Team members will collect your styrofoam and deliver it to DART. When we use a styrofoam cup or take home our leftovers in a styrofoam container, we are using a product that will be with us for centuries - five centuries or more. Currently, 2.5 million cups are used per year in the US and most of these are thrown into the trash and then into our landfills.

REUSING items was the topic in last month's article and reusing styrofoam packing materials is a great idea. However, please don't use or reuse food styrofoam food containers. Benzene and styrene are among the chemicals used to manufacture styrofoam. Benzene is a known carcinogen and a threat to human health and reproductive systems while styrene is a suspected carcinogen. These chemicals can leach from containers into food when heated.

Recycling doesn't make the styrofoam go away. Recycling simply turns it into different styrofoam products. The environment wins because new styrofoam isn't produced and the original doesn't go into the landfill.

This event will be a first for our church and a gift for the environment. Thank you for your help and our committee wishes you a blessed holiday and a joyous New Year.

Faithfully yours,  
Environmental Stewardship Committee

## ESL Program Update

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL COORDINATOR

JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### ESL Thanksgiving Potluck

Gracias, 谢谢 (pronounced "xièxiè"), je vous remercie, 고맙습니다 (pronounced "gomabseubnida"), Спасибо (pronounced



Jeanette Pyne, ESL Coordinator, explains some Thanksgiving traditions.

“spasibo”)—that’s “Thank you” in Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, and Russian. This is what the ESL students wanted to communicate at the ESL Thanksgiving Potluck on November 20th to the members of First Pres for supporting and providing for the ESL Program for the past 7 years. It was the first time that the ESL Program invited First Pres members to join in their annual ESL Thanksgiving Potluck. It was such a success that it will be the first ESL Thanksgiving Potluck of many to come. It was well attended by both students and members from First Pres; about 85 people were in attendance. Students and First Pres members got to sample food from different cuisines like arepas, japchae,

potato casserole, and pumpkin pie. If you don’t know what the previous dishes were, you will just need to come to next year’s Thanksgiving Potluck to try the delicious food.

A requirement from the beginning was that everyone needed to sit next to someone that they didn’t know, so students and members of First Pres were integrated at the tables. There was a lot of conversation and laughter. One of the most touching moments was at the end when I asked the group to share what they were thankful for. Several students stood and emotionally described how they were thankful for the ESL Program because it has positively and meaningfully impacted their lives.

**Jim Dey**, a member of First Pres, was kind enough to write a wonderful article in the News Gazette about the potluck, which was featured the next day in the paper. We hope that you if you missed the potluck this year, you would join us next year.



Yudisley, from Colombia, explains how grateful she is for the ESL program.

shaomai, mantou, Brazilian ham and cheese bread, tamales, and of course the requisite American Thanksgiving staples like turkey, green bean casserole, sweet

Su Voz (His Voice) is a short devotion written by clergy and lay members of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. It is distributed daily by email. To subscribe contact Marcia in the church office.

### Easy English Fellowship

Together we pray, we read the Word and we sing to God. In the process we learn English every Sunday at 10 AM. This is a collaboration with the adult education program at Parkland College.

Join us.



Back Row: Sue (Parkland), Ginette, Nadeige, Emilie, Rosalie, Jacqueline and Tony (Parkland). Front Row: Colette, Hector (teacher), Norma (teacher), Mamie, Paty (teacher) and Jose.

## Snippets from Matt's Cuba Journal/Winter 2019

As winter sets in, I invite you to think about the warmer climes of Cuba.

For the next few months I thought I'd share with you passages from the journal I kept while in Havana last year while visiting our Sister Church, the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Luyano. The church is located at the edge of downtown Havana. Our delegation from First Presbyterian Church Champaign (Rachel Matthews, Robert Ferrer, Judi Geistlinger, and I) stayed on the Luyano campus and were treated like beloved family. We were verily treasured. This brotherhood/sisterhood, what our Cuban hosts call a "hermanamiento," is a special bond that is difficult to describe. I want you to know this by taking a trip to Cuba with another team from First Pres.

In the meantime, here are snippets from my journal. These abbreviated notes come without explanation; I think you'll be able to follow.

Come with me!

Matt

### **Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Bloomington, IL, airport:**

We are sitting at the gate at 4:57 a.m. We are ready to go with only an hour to wait. According to Judi Geistlinger's hi-tech watch, it's 11-degrees F outdoors, not counting a blustery wind chill. According to Robert Ferrer's weather app on his phone, it's 70-degrees in Cuba, not counting wind chill. We are only about seven hours away from touchdown in Havana.

### **Havana!**

Our tickets say our plane was to touch down at 1:35 EST. I forgot to look at my watch, but it was close. It was sunny, warm, and we were glad to be on the ground in Cuba. When the plane touched down, passengers broke out in applause.

The flight was pleasant. From Atlanta we flew over the piedmont of hilly, green Georgia to

the sea, and at the ocean followed the coast of Florida until we veered out over the ocean of perfect blue speckled with white dots that, to the naked eye, could have been scattered flocks of gulls or whitecaps. By the time land reappeared—Cuba—we were descending and jockeying toward the airport. Passenger applauded—I guess—not because the flight evoked fear but because a lot of us had never been here, or had been gone a long time, or, I cannot say. I simply joined the clapping.

On the shuttle from the plane to the modern terminal of grey chevrons trimmed in red—we deplaned on the tarmac—we met the 17-person delegation from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, on their way to their CPN sister church in Matanzas. A Baptist engineer waited for his visa so that he could meet his delegation; they were rewiring a nearby Baptist Seminary.

### **Landing in Havana:**

Parked alongside the runway as we landed sat a ghost fleet of several junked airliners: jets without engines on their wings, fuselages peeling paint, chocked wheels with flat tires.

The terminal, by contrast, is modern enough, like a swooping bird, grey wings with red trim. Our Delta plane parked between an airworthy Columbian Avianca and Aeromexico. We walked down steep ladder-steps into a shuttle that took us to the terminal.

Daniel and Yamilet seemed happy to see us after we made it through customs and got our religious visas. I was happy to be on the ground, and the warm air was delicious.

The drive to the church was an adventure. I hung my head out the window part of the time and, the other, watched Daniel orchestrate directions to Carlos with large hand signals like a conductor. Old American cars filled the road, as well as Puegeots, Toyotas, Hyundais, and a plethora of Lada (Russian) taxis. There were motorized three-wheelers, horses and buggies, motorcycles with sidecars, scooters, and bicycles. Everything was old. I had seen the dilapidation in pictures. It looks different in real life, quaint, maybe, but sadder.

A little dog stood on the roof of a carport looking down at the patio below where old men sat playing chess. We passed the couple who barely fit on the small motorcycle as they pattered up the hill; on the way down, they flew past us.

We were heading to our home away from home and I couldn't wait to arrive.

At the church, we were offered snacks of cookies and cold, frothy mix of papaya, pineapple, and guava fruit juices, coffee, and filtered water. We took a brief tour of the gated compound, petted semi-feral, wild-eyed cats (one halfway through pregnancy), and headed to Judi's room to unpack and sort our gifts.

I am tired but glad to be on the ground, unpacked, and awaiting dinner. Cuba smiles all around.

Carlos is our van driver. Hector is the gate guard. He wears an Australian hat. He's never been to Australia, but he has been to Russia, and, when asked, admitted drinking buen vodka. Those who prepared our snacks were Mercedes and Silvi. Mercedes is a name that, Daniel says, has its root in the word "mercy." In the kitchen, two heavy, soft melons sat on the counter. They said it was papaya. I'll bet we're going to see that again on our plates very soon.

**To be continued...**

# Finance

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE  
 MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

### Contributions

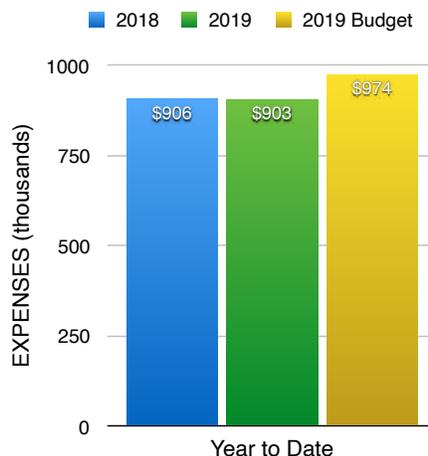
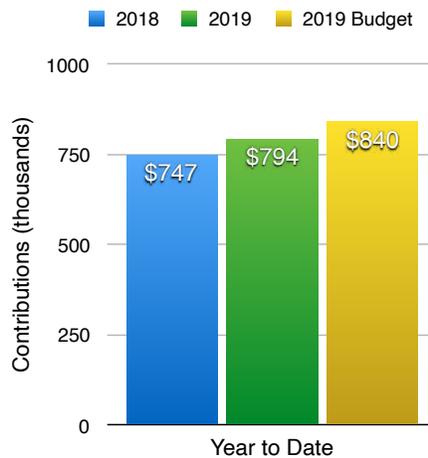
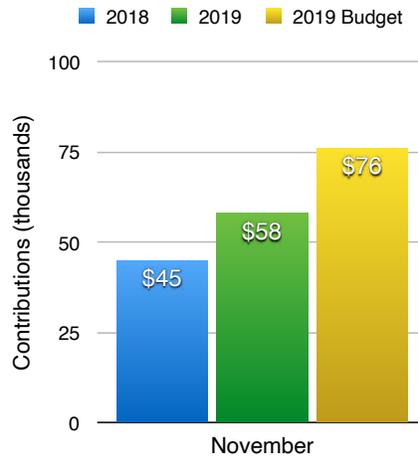
Contributions in November were \$13K more than in 2018 but \$18K below the budget at \$58K. The Year to Date total is above last year by \$47K but below the budgeted amount by \$46K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. Including all revenue sources, at 91.7% through the year, we have received 86.2% of the expected 2019 revenue. This results from the receipt of 91.2% of pledge commitments but only 58.2% of expected non-pledge contributions.

### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$71K below the budget at \$903K and \$3K below 2018. At 91.7% through the year we have experienced only 85% of the expected 2019 expenses.

### Balance

Considering all sources, expenses year to date exceed revenue by \$16K. This is not unexpected as this year's budget anticipated a \$33K deficit. However, our balance at the end of November is \$33K better than in 2018.



## What are you most grateful for at First Pres? Here are some of the responses...

- It is my church community
- Welcoming congregation
- Grateful for God's faithful members
- Always a feeling of coming home
- Caring people
- We so appreciate the constant and loving effort to be "relevant" current, available, connected, open-hearted, welcoming, energetic...
- All the members of this church who are friendly and there in the time of need.
- People and fellowship
- My wonderful family of Believers here – I love all the people here and sense "a little bit" what Heaven will be about – all of us loving one another
- Friends I've made since joining
- The many friends and friendly people
- Movement toward diversity with open arms
- Friends
- Last, but not least, I am grateful that people from all nations join us each and every Sunday
- Members
- Acceptance of diversity
- An open, accepting, diverse congregation
- The rich depth of the talents and wisdom of our members who have led and are still leading this church
- The faithful Session members...many of whom have given years to their role
- Our SS Teachers...adult and youth... I love this church!
- Friendship of fellow worshippers and believers

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Statements

### First Presbyterian Church, Champaign, IL

**Preamble:** In the vows of baptism the congregation promises to guide and nurture the children entrusted to its care by word and deed and with love and prayer. We vow to encourage them to know and follow Christ and be faithful members of his church.

#### Demographics

Our children and their families come from Indonesia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Korea, Scotland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, as well as the United States. They all speak English, and many speak French and other languages. Families celebrate rich cultural traditions. We are thrilled to welcome, nurture, teach, and learn from these children and their families.

First Presbyterian Church is committed to doing ministry in the heart of the city. According to the University YMCA, 11.6-percent of the population of Champaign County were immigrants in 2016; 46-percent were university students, but over 13,000 were longer term immigrants. First Presbyterian has long been devoted to doing ministry along side of all people.

While our children speak English, many of their parents, primarily French speakers from the Congo, struggle with conversational English. They often work two jobs, have younger children at home, and don't have the support of a wider local family network and therefore they are not able to help with their children's Sunday School education as they'd like. We endeavor to stand in the breach for and with them.

We want the best teachers and christian leaders to join us in this vibrant ministry to the children of our community.

#### Our Vision

To create a vital, growing, and inclusive reformed christian community of all ages, races, and cultures, dedicated to God through learning and service in the heart of the city through welcoming and nurturing all children and youth.

#### Our Mission

To serve as partners in the building of faith foundations for future generations by developing culturally sensitive reformed Christian programming for the community.

#### Objectives

Recruit volunteer leadership from within the church membership and the wider reformed christian community to broaden our connections and serve a truly diverse intergenerational group.

Provide volunteer training that includes cultural awareness.

Secure safe methods of transportation for children and youth wishing to attend programming who do not have access to the programming otherwise.

Create volunteer service opportunities that are not merely monetary donations, but provide hands-on activities to engage all ages that benefit local needs as well as global needs. Specifically provide opportunities for older youth and young adults to interact with the beneficiaries of their efforts.

Provide classes for increased knowledge of scripture and practical spiritual disciplines that are appropriate for the ages involved. Ensure a safe environment to encourage mutual trust and inspire open discourse and discussion of life applications.

Create fellowship opportunities for fun interaction among participants that help to build long term healthy relationships.

We want everyone in our community to “be who God made you to be.” We want everyone in our community to “be safe, be responsible, be respectful.”



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

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**Sunday:**

- 9 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education
- 11:15 AM Worship

**Pastors:**

- Matt Matthews..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213
- Eric Corbin..... Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

**Staff:**

- George Almasi ..... Facility Assistant
- Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Manager, Ext. 237
- Patty Farthing.....Receptionist, Ext. 211
- Robert Ferrer .....Audio-visual Technician
- Marcia Franks ..... Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210
- Joe Grant..... Director of Music
- Rachel Matthews ..... Temporary Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219
- Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216
- Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224
- Lizz Pippin ..... CYF Associate Director, Ext. 216
- Jeanette Pyne..... ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235
- Richard Rossi ..... Church Musician
- Mindy Watts-Ellis.....Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by @firstpres.church. For example, eric@firstpres.church.

**The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month's edition. Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.**