

2015

LEHIGH PRESBYTERY

WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

“you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism. . .” — Ephesians 4:4b-5



MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

January 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Lehigh Presbytery,

The current edition of the Monthly Prayer Guide is the fifth year of the Worldwide Ministries Care Team sharing, with our brothers and sisters, the mission outreach of our churches across the presbytery.

Working with the Care Team has provided the opportunity to review each mission initiative allowing for a unique insight into the scope of the mission activities within each of the respective faith communities.

In the course of time, as you read and reflect on both the local and global mission initiatives, consider extending an invitation to share with your congregation how God is at work in many different ways in the world.

The scope and insight of these mission activities have been instructive in:

- that the churches in their mission outreach are redrawing their boundaries;*
- that Christian mission activity is not just one among many church activities;*
- that mission is from the margin and not to the margin;*
- that the church is understood as the church with others, not for others;*
- that by doing mission activities together, we will witness to those who need Christ, sharing with them God's love that crosses all national, political, cultural and economic barriers.*

Shalom,

Jack Ferlino and the Worldwide Ministries Care Team

JANUARY 2015

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EMMAUS PA RIAMUKURWE PARISH, NYERI KENYA

"Don't pretend to love one another. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Cling tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection – and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12: 9-11 (NTL)



Faith Presbyterian Church has been engaged in a Church to Church partnership with the Riamukurwe Parish of the Nyeri Presbytery in central Kenya since 1998. Since the time of commitment, Faith and Riamukurwe have exchanged visits during 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2013 and most recently this past summer 2014. Jacqueline Decker, a Faith youth member, participated in an internship through Westminster College where she compared cultural norms, church organization, mission, and polity between both congregations. This endeavor launched the partnership into new and innovative territory where comparisons can be made between Presbyterianism many miles apart.

Being in partnership throughout the past decade has taught both congregations the value of being in personal dialog concerning discipleship in the 21st Century. Partners live together in homes, worship together, engage in Bible study and prayer, and walk the communities hand in hand discerning missional practices. Faith Church has joined Riamukurwe in their ministry to destitute children by supporting two homes. They support students in post secondary education and have a vision to support a new vocational technical school. One unique practice this partnership has maintained is the "Joint Worship" service. Both congregations share worship together in actual time through SKYPE.

Join us in prayer. . . .

- for the children in both Tumaini and Huruma children's homes
- for the completed construction of the new vocational technical school
- for the eight congregations that make up the Riamukurwe Parish
- for peace in the country of Kenya

FEBRUARY 2015

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALLENTOWN, PA LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:3 (NIV)

"At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from a water-related disease. Unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene cause nearly 90 percent of all diseases in the world, and claim the lives of 5,000 children under the age of five every day." *Living Water International*

Working through *Living Water International*, ten people from First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, PA were moved by the Spirit to join the church's first Well Mission Team. They ventured to the village of April 25, in Colon, Honduras to bring clean water to the thirsty. Named for the date they received the land, the village of April 25 is home to 3,000 people.



After witnessing the contaminated water sources and poor sanitation in the village, the team began drilling the well. Four days later and 95' in the depths of the ground, God provided clean, life-saving water. The water began to flow from the new well at 11:55am.

A short while later during the dedication of the well, Pastor Mike Drake read the bible story of the woman at the well. Beginning with John 4: 5-6 he read: *"So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon..."*



"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'" John 4: 13-14

Join Us in Prayer...

- for the people in the village of April 25
- for Living Water International staff in Honduras and around the world
- for everyone who thirsts for clean and living water

MARCH 2015

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BETHLEHEM, PA THE RELIEF BUS

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



What is a human life worth? **EVERYTHING.**

This is the question asked by The Relief Bus organization and one that members of the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem (FPCB) have been exemplifying through their missional outreach to the poor and broken in Newark, NJ and NYC.

Volunteering with the Relief Bus has provided the FPCB congregation with the opportunity to embody *Isaiah 58:9-10*, by serving those living in extreme poverty and homelessness. The concept is one that is rather simple in its execution; volunteers provide their brothers & sisters in Christ with a hot meal & prayer to nourish both their bodies and their spirits. The effect it can have

is truly monumental and life transforming and one that honors the Father in the way He commands in Matthew 25:31-40 NIV, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem is answering a call to support and partner with New York City Relief through volunteering regularly with the Relief Bus outreach on assorted Friday evenings in Newark, NJ. More information on the Relief Bus outreach can be found at www.reliefbus.org



Join Us in Prayer...

- for personal healing and love for those taking advantage of the services provided
- of thanksgiving to God for the grace He has shown allowing The Relief Bus to grow its outreach

APRIL 2015

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EASTON, PA NAGYVARAD-RET CONGREGATION, ORADEA, ROMANIA

"Know that the Lord, He is God. It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Psalm 100.3



First Presbyterian Church of Easton established a Church-to-Church partnership with the Nagyvarad-Ret Congregation of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Oradea, Romania in 2003. Our congregations believed that the Holy Spirit led us into a relationship of mutual friendship and partnership based on our common faith and heritage as Reformed Churches.

In July 2014, the Rev. Jozsef Palfi, pastor of the Nagyvarad congregation, his wife Noemi and daughter Boroka, made their first visit to First Presbyterian Church of Easton.

The Palfi visit was a joyous occasion for our congregation as we celebrated our partnership. Our members enjoyed the opportunity to meet Rev. Palfi and learn more about the Nagyvarad congregation, its people, their heritage, culture and religious history, and their struggles as an ethnic minority in Romania. One focus of their mission is the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten program for children of the congregation and the community.

Rev. Palfi was the guest preacher at our Sunday service on July 20, 2014. His sermon was based on John 13:34, ***"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*** A Hungarian hymn setting of Psalm 92, was sung by Mrs. Palfi during the service.

Our Church-to-Church partnership has been strengthened through these opportunities of worship, prayer, friendship, and love in our congregation and within Lehigh Presbytery.

Join Us in Prayer...

- to strengthen the bond between our congregations as we continue our partnership during troubled economic times.
- for the joy we share in our common faith as we seek to serve God and his people.
- to inspire our congregation to actively pray for and support the kindergarten mission at our partner church.

MAY 2015

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LEHIGHTON, PA LEHIGHTON INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP (LIFE)

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
John 15:8 (NIV)

Lehighton Interfaith Fellowship (LIFE) is one of the local missions in which our church takes an active part and has done so for at least thirty years. Churches involved with LIFE help provide food for the local food bank and furniture for a furniture bank. LIFE has organized a yearly service to remember 9/11. Since 1992, they have organized the annual CROP Walk which raises money to help fight hunger both locally and nationally. LIFE also sponsors the Baccalaureate service for the graduating seniors of Lehighton High School every year as well as the World Day of Prayer Service. They sponsor Dial-A-Devotions where people from various congregations record a devotional six days a week for the benefit of those who are ill, shut in or need an inspiring message.

The Lehighton congregation hosts the Glee Club of the Union League annually and part of the proceeds from that concert are used to pay the storage fee for the furniture bank, summer Bible camp program in Romania, and Habitat for Humanity. We provide food for the community food pantry and leadership for the 9/11 service and World Day of Prayer service, as well as, money and walkers for the CROP Walk. First Presbyterian Church has several people who record devotional messages and the church helps pay for the phone service that supports this program. The treasurer of LIFE is a member of our congregation. As LIFE ministers to the Lehighton area, we take an active part in that mission.



Join Us in Prayer...

- for the LIFE congregations as they strive to serve those in need
- for the people who hear the message on Dial-A-Devotion
- for our congregation as we seek new ways to serve

JUNE 2015

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH, BRODHEADSVILLE, PA REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CABAIGUAN, CUBA

"... that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:12 (NIV)



The Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church (PVPC) is beginning a mutual friendship with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cabaiguan, Cuba. There is a real connection here. PVPC member Zeke Alvarez went to church there when he was a child. His father was the Cabaiguan Pastor in the 1950s.

Today, the 106 year old Cabaiguan church has a new Pastor, Marlon Irrarragorry. Marlon graduated from Seminary in June 2013, and started at Cabaiguan in October 2013. The church in Cabaiguan is a medium sized church with 65 -75 attendees on Sundays, peaking at 300 for Christmas events.

We will be exchanging visits. Zeke's cousin, Lila Hernandez, has visited us several times. Pastor Marlon is scheduled to visit us in September 2014 and we will have several visitors go to Cuba in 2015. Currently our involvement is prayer for each other. As we get to know each other we may get involved in specific mission endeavors.

Join Us in Prayer ...

- for each other
- that we may become involved in a specific mission endeavor together as we grow in our relationship with each other

JULY 2015

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CATASAUQUA LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL MISSION

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13 (NIV)

Mission giving is a prominent part in the lives of our church membership here at the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua. The Church Mission Team and Presbyterian Women's Circle reach out with love to our local community and the surrounding area. Both groups work toward helping others helping themselves.

Our church sponsors a Community Luncheon once a month and invites the community to come and share a free meal. The Deacon Committee offers assistance for families having financial issues and needing a hand to lift them up and over this valley in their lives. This program is made possible through their "Soup and Sandwich" program held once a month.



Our church will sponsor a new program this fall directed at obtaining groceries for households at a "low cost". Everyone will benefit because all will be receiving foods that are fresh, healthy and nutritious. Several community groups meet within our church having different needs. They include Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Alcohol Anonymous.

Recently our Church Mission Team hosted a luncheon for the Rev. Doug and Mrs. Elaine Baker, PC(USA) liaisons from Ireland. Rev. Baker followed this luncheon with a slide presentation showing our congregation their mission journey and the work being done in Ireland.

On Sunday, July 13, 2014 we honored our pastor, Rev. P. Doug Cronce, as he celebrated his 35th year as an ordained Minister. Congratulations!

Join Us in Prayer...

- to enable us to serve our church membership and the surrounding communities, children and seniors
- for families who are in need and seek our help to grow in God's love
- for global church communities helping others to find our Lord and Savior
- for harmony within our church

AUGUST 2015

CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN, DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA CUBA MISSION

*"Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,
but those who are kind to the needy honor him."* Proverbs 14:31 (NRSV)



The Delaware Water Gap Presbyterian Church of the Mountain initiated its Cuba mission in 1998 when it sent church members to Cardenas, a city about three hours east of Havana along the north coast of the island. Those church members carried medicines that are in critically short supply in Cuba because of the U.S. embargo.

On that first trip we formed close personal bonds with members of the Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church, even signing a partnership agreement with them. Since then the church has sent members to Cardenas seven times. The medicines they carry with them each time are distributed to the Cardenas community by physicians who are members of the Juan G. Hall Church. Mission participants also take part in the work of the Cardenas church. They visit the poor and elderly, worship in the church and in people's homes, and participate in various celebrations in the life of the church and its congregation.

The Church of the Mountain has brought members of the Cardenas church to Delaware Water Gap on two separate occasions.

The mission seeks to encourage a better relationship between our two countries through person-to-person contact.

Join Us in Prayer ...

- for an easing of tensions between our countries.
- for an end to the embargo against Cuba.

SEPTEMBER 2015

CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN, DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA HIKERS CENTER – A MISSION OF HOSPITALITY

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers have been welcomed by the church since 1978 when a group of women in the church became aware of trail hikers looking for rest and shelter. Hikers slept on the church grounds or in the basement of the church which had a bathroom.

With assistance from Rev. William Cohea, the center was opened. A shower was installed in the center along with built-in bunks and eventually furniture, making a comfortable respite for weary travelers. In the height of the summer season, the center is fully occupied and tents dot the grounds as 30 or more hikers may be here on any given day. On average, 1,000 hikers per year register on the Appalachian Trail sign-in sheets. The center is cleaned every day by church members and



hundreds of towels are washed each week. Our pastor, Rev. Sherry Blackman, and members check in with the hikers on a daily basis. A covered dish supper, held on our porch, is offered every Thursday through the summer to feed hikers and members alike.

In 2014, Delaware Water Gap was officially designated an Appalachian Trail Community (Trail Town). The mission continues to flourish with God's guidance, to serve those in need of shelter, medical, physical and spiritual assistance.

Join Us in Prayer...

- for a continued desire by members to be involved with the center mission
- for health and safety of the hikers
- for continued financial support

OCTOBER 2015

CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN, DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA KENYA MISSION

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Alice Visionary Foundation Project (AVFP) ministers in Muhoroni District, Kenya, Africa. This is the home of founder Beldina Opiyo, a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Mountain (PCOM) in Delaware Water Gap and a graduate of East Stroudsburg University who returned to Kenya after ten years of being in the USA. She founded AVFP in 2005 after feeling called to help the orphans in her village. Sandra Rader, a member of Presbyterian Church of the Mountain, also felt God's call to "help in Africa" and was encouraged by Beldina to go and see how to help. That was the first mission trip to Kenya supported by the Church. Since that time, Sandra along with members of the Presbyterian Church of the Mountain have taken five more mission trips.



The project with the support of Presbyterian Church of the Mountain members started with the education, medical and psychosocial support of twelve orphans and now has eighteen orphans or vulnerable children. Due to the overwhelming need, the organization has grown and other projects have developed such as school feeding programs, community health education, clean water project, agricultural training, early childhood education and Group Savings and Loans women's groups. AVFP is now an International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with the Kenya government and also a USA Non-Profit 501(c)(3).

If you would like more information, please visit: www.alicevisionary.org

Join Us in Prayer...

- for continued sources of financial support for the orphans and vulnerable children
- for God's guidance as AVFP expands its partnerships and ministry this year

NOVEMBER 2015

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST STROUDSBURG SWEETBRIAR PRESCHOOL

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1Peter 4:10

Sweetbriar Preschool of East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church (ESPC) is gearing up for its second year of classes with an exciting new twist: This year the preschool is not charging tuition and will be operating on a by-donation basis. This grace-driven mission of ESPC strives to provide high-quality early childhood education for children ages 2-5 with both drop-off classes and a parent-child class for our youngest learners.

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us that, *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* We feel strongly that this opportunity to share our gifts of creativity, education and love of family will spread the grace of God within our congregation and community.



Join Us in Prayer...

- for continued congregational support for Sweetbriar Preschool through volunteerism
- for the children and caregivers who enter our doors for learning, laughter and love
- that our donation-only plan will prove to be a blessing to those families and help them understand the manifold grace of God that Peter described.

DECEMBER 2015

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, POTTSVILLE, PA

LOCAL COMMUNITY MISSION

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philipians 4:13 (NIV)



The congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of Pottsville continues to be involved in our church community, and to reach out to others in the community as a whole. The First Presbyterian Church, organized in 1837, later merged with the Second Presbyterian Church in 1968. Following the depression of the coal industry, the final construction of the First Church building was completed, redesigned, and rededicated in 1927. Two original Tiffany stained-glass windows, a rose window, along with other memorial windows grace the walls of our sanctuary. Windows from the Second Church were removed and reinstalled in the First Church, cementing their relationship of two becoming one in faith.

The church's Statement of Faith from 1987 remains as our guide in being a missional church: "The United Presbyterian Church of Pottsville, PA, is a congregation of persons who recognize that Jesus Christ is the foundation and cornerstone of the Church—that it is in him that we live and move and have our being. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and we exist as a church to obey His command to go into the world to proclaim the good news of salvation".

Our church family is working to fulfill its mission through traditional worship with contemporary elements; Christian Education for children, youth and adults; nurturing and caring for members through visitations and delivering communion to shut-ins; supporting community organization such as: Salvation Army, Schuylkill Volunteer Homecare, Pottsville Soup Kitchen, United Presbyterian Church of Pottsville Food Pantry; making our building available to Alcoholics Anonymous, Schuylkill County Community Chorus, Local Social Service agencies as requested; and supporting the work of Lehigh Presbytery and many other local and global missions.

Join Us in Prayer...

- as we continue to strive to be a positive presence in our community
- as we welcome anyone searching for the love of our Lord and to become an active part of our church family
- as we continue to seek God's guidance to discover the direction of our mission and ministries for the 21st Century.

Covenant

“that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s partner.” Romans 1:12

Believing...

- ...that Christ has called the church into being,
giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world;
- ...that we are called to give living expression to the unity of the church in Christ
that is beyond any human boundaries;
- ...that by knowing more about each other, our lives and our churches,
we will also know more about how God is at work, in many different ways in the world;
- ...that by listening to each other, God will speak to us in new ways and we can grow spiritually;
- ...that by praying for and with each other, the power of the Holy Spirit will energize us;
- ...that by doing mission activities together,
we will witness to those who need Christ sharing with them,
God’s love that crosses all national, political, cultural and economic barriers;
- ...that our relationship will become deep, strong, and loving;

We the

**Transylvanian Reformed Church District of the
Hungarian Reformed Church in the Carpathian Basin,**

&

We the

**Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District of the
Hungarian Reformed Church in the Carpathian Basin,**

&

We the

**Lehigh Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Together we Covenant to:

Pray for and with, communicate with and listen to, learn and teach, work, rest, and celebrate,
stand in solidarity with, and Witness to God’s reconciling work of love as agreed with our
partners.

**On behalf of the
Transylvanian Reformed
Church District**

*Dr. Géza Pap, Bishop
Tibor Kiss, Counselor*

**On behalf of the
Királyhágómellék Reformed
Church District**

*István Csúry, Bishop
Zoltán Kovács, First Elder*

**On behalf of the
Lehigh Presbytery
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

*Matilda Chase, Moderator
Robert Nickels, Stated Clerk*

Worldwide Ministries Care Team

*Jack Ferlino, Past Chair
Pat Noga, Chair*



Signed this 17th day of May 2010

International, National and Local Mission Works of Lehigh Presbytery Congregations

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS
www.faithemmauschurch.org
Riamukurwe Parish, Nyeri, Kenya

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CATASAUQUA
www.cattypresbyterian.org
International & Local Mission

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALLENTOWN
www.fpcallentown.org
Living Water International

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN,
DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA**
www.churchofthemountain.org
Cuba Mission

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM
www.fpc-bethlehem.org
The Relief Bus

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN,
DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA**
www.churchofthemountain.org
Hikers Center

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON
www.eastonfpc.org
Nagyvarad-Ret Congregation, Oradea,
Romania

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN,
DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA**
www.churchofthemountain.org
Kenya Mission

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LEHIGHTON
church phone: 610-377-5111
Lehighton Interfaith Fellowship (LIFE)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST STROUDSBURG
www.espresbyterian@verzion.net
Sweetbriar Preschool

**PLEASANT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
BRODHEADSVILLE, PA**
www.pleasantvalleypresbyterian.org
Reformed Presbyterian Church,
Cabaiguan, Cuba

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF POTTSVILLE
www.unitedpresbyterian.org
Local Community Mission

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