



First Presbyterian Church Redwood Falls Mission Booklet 2018



*"Don't get tired of helping others.
You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up." Galatians 6:9*

First Presbyterian Church
235 E 4th St, PO Box 444
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"What so ever you do to the last of my people, that you do unto me." Matthew 25:40

This verse from the book of Matthew is the principle guiding force behind the mission program at the First Presbyterian Church. Through our mission efforts, we help Christ's hurting people wherever the Holy Spirit directs our help.



Our mission activities are divided into four categories which are:

1. International
2. National
3. Regional (within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies)
4. Local (mostly throughout Redwood County)

In addition, one half of our mission/tithing collection goes to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, Synod of Lakes and Prairies and General Assembly for mission support. Also in addition to our tithing and pledged mission fund, individuals donate money to missions of their choosing.

In 2018, we supported the following mission categories:

	Tithing Fund	Private Gifts	Total
International	\$3,169.76	\$590.00	\$3,759.76
National	\$4,315.00	\$2,271.18	\$6,586.18
Regional	\$5,106.79	\$0.00	\$5,106.79
Local	\$4,269.30	\$11,581.16	\$15,850.46
Totals	\$16,860.85	\$14,442.34	\$31,303.19
Presbyterian Mission Support	\$11,278.93		

Mission Trips: These funds were raised by the people who participated in the Mission trips. It does not include support from the Presbyterian Mission funds.

Costa Rica - Total Collected: \$26,425.86/Spent: \$25,938.23 (\$487.63). Omaha - Total Collected: \$5,456.75/Spent: \$2,820.00 (\$2,636.75).

Guatemala Scholarships



Since 1992, the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys has had a partnership with the Occidente Presbytery, in Guatemala. One of the ways PMV congregations support them is through their pastors. Many are not paid very well. They are tent maker style pastors, some are farmers, and others have lower paying jobs. Money is scarce. Many of the churches are very small. 16 Congregations in the Presbytery help the pastors by providing funds to help them educate their children. The money is used to buy uniforms, books, school supplies and sometimes shoes. \$250 (plus the admin fee for transferring the funds) may not seem like much to

many of us, but for them it is a lot and it encourages them to keep their children in school. They are so grateful for the funds. Please keep these pastors and their families in your prayers.

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$262.50 for Guatemala Scholarships from International funds.**



South Sudan

South Sudan, Education and Peace Building

Dear Partners in God's Mission, We are truly grateful to God for you as we look back at the first half of the year. Your congregation's gifts make a difference in the lives of people around the corner and around the world. God continues to be faithful and all of us a the Presbyterian Mission



would like to thank for you for your financial and prayerful support. We join with ministries and church partners around the world as we pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God which has been given to you and to us (2 Cor. 9:14). The generosity of your congregation has provided the following support: April 18, we received \$710 for the South Sudan Education and Peace Building, \$145 for the South Sudan Administration and Logistics Facilitators and \$145 for the South Sudan Education Facilitator.

I am grateful for your faithful response to your call as a partner in Christ's service. As the Mission Engagement Advisor for your region, I'm here to help you connect with the many resources available through the Presbyterian Mission Agency in support of you mission and ministries. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or if you need information.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

Please let me know how I can support your efforts.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Rhonda K. Krause; Mission Engagement Advisor, Midwest

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$2,000.00 to the South Sudan Education and Peace Fund from International funds.**



Sunday School Offering

Special Offering - Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Purchased: 2 families of chickens, 2 piglets

Dear Friends, Thank you for your purchase from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog! Your gift makes a difference. Your gift represents one of the ways the Presbyterian Church (USA) is able to make a difference throughout the world. These items in the catalog connect to ministries addressing hunger relief, self-development projects, disaster assistance, ministries with youth and young adults, peacemaking and reconciliation programs, racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, and assistance to church workers in a time of need. Together, the

ministers respond in gratitude to the grace we have received in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your continued support. With sincere gratitude, Bryce Wiebe - Director, Special Offerings

***The Sunday School offering collected and used \$90.00 to make a purchase from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.**



Operation Smile

*Dear Friend of Operation Smile,
Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to help the Operation Smile team reach children in need of lifesaving surgery. Your generosity improves the lives of children all around the world. Your compassion gives these children the same opportunities for happiness as their friends and loved ones. The surgeries you help provide all these children allow them to attend school without fear of bullying. To have the confidence to pursue new friendships. To live a life full of smiles.
Your generosity will change the world - one smile at a time. Thank you for giving this holiday season.*

Sincerely, Dr. Mill Magee, Jr, D.D.S, M.D, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Manus, left, and Wanna hold their twin sons, Ou and Lak, right center, as they await their comprehensive health evaluations during an Operation Smile medical mission in Thailand.



***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to Operation Smile through a private donation.**

Roblealto Child Care Association

The First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee sponsored a child at Roblealto.

The Roblealto Child Care Association is a Christian, public welfare, non-profit organization founded in 1932. From the beginning, its mission has been to care for the children of Costa Rica who are in critical situations and in need of specialized care and integrated services so they are able to reach their full potential.

While the children are being cared for, their parents are receiving support from Roblealto's interdisciplinary team, in order to cut the cycles of poverty and dysfunction in one generation.

Since 1932, thousands of children have received comprehensive care in the areas of health, nutrition, education, spiritual and emotional support and psychological treatment.

But especially, our children and their families have received the love and understanding they need from the Roblealto staff; committed professionals that share Christian values with them, which will help them function successfully in society.

What does sponsorship mean to a child at Roblealto?

It means that someone loves that child and thinks he or she is special. Someone has chosen to invest in the life of a child and pray for and encourage him or her. This is especially significant, since many children come to us at Roblealto with very low self-esteem and many of them do not receive that kind of love, encouragement and warmth from their families at home. When a child finds out his or her sponsor wrote, his/her eyes light up and a huge smile spreads across his/her whole face! Sponsorship is a means of directly transforming a child's life with Christ's love.

You have the opportunity to impact a life forever through Roblealto's Sponsorship Program! This Program is the backbone of Roblealto and the way we assure our kids the integrated attention they need, given by professionals. More than just feeding and giving shelter to the children and their families, Roblealto works actively in sharing the Christian vision of life. At the same time, we offer them tools to cut the cycles of dysfunction and poverty and to have a better quality of life. Roblealto will provide you with a yearly progress report and an updated picture of your child from their birthday month.

***The First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee paid \$360.00, from all four mission categories, in 2018 to sponsor a child.**



Presbyterian Disaster Relief (Hurricane Relief)

With the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, we saw a total of 15 named storms, 8 of those being hurricanes, and 2 storms reaching MAJOR hurricane strength.

The heavy hitters this year were Florence and Michael, both of which moved through the CSRA at some point in their journey. Florence caused catastrophic flooding through the Carolinas and Michael forever changed the landscape of the Florida Panhandle and south Georgia.

Florence (September 2018)

- 32 storm related deaths
- 35.93" of rain recorded in Swansboro, NC (New North Carolina record - most rainfall from a tropical system)
- 34" of rain recorded in Marion, SC (New South Carolina record - most rainfall from a tropical system)
- Around \$17.9 billion in damage so far

Michael (October 2018)

- 43 storm related deaths
- Strongest storm in recorded history to ever hit Florida Panhandle (Max Winds 155mph)
- 4th strongest storm to hit US on record (based on central pressure at landfall)
- Around \$15 billion in damage so far



***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$3,000.00 towards Hurricane relief aid from National funds.**

***Through private donations, \$1,558.00 was also donated to Hurricane relief aid.**

Jail & Bail Ministry

On June 19, 2018, during General Assembly, hundreds of Presbyterians, including Julia Prouty, marched over a mile through the streets of downtown St. Louis where the temperature was 94 degrees with a heat index surpassing 100 degrees. The heat didn't dampen the spirit of the crowd, who boldly chanted "End cash bail!" as they made their way to the City Justice Center. They were there to deliver a message – and a check for \$47,200 for bail relief. The money came from the offering collected during the assembly's opening worship. The offering taken during opening worship at previous assemblies has generally totaled \$13,000-18,000. This offering was more than triple that. Working with local networks in St. Louis – the Arch City Defenders and the Bail Project – the offering will purchase freedom for people held under bench warrants and minor offenses as they await trial. It gets them back to their jobs, to their families and to their communities.

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$400.00, from National funds, to this mission project.**



Hunger Fund

***The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls collected \$1,401.71 towards the Hunger Fund.**

Presbyterian Missions

One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy Offering

"...A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only... makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God..."

—Book of Confessions 9.46

One Great Hour of Sharing

When is the OGHS received? Most congregations receive "OGHS" on Easter Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent.

How is OGHS used? A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

- *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- *Presbyterian Hunger Program
- *Self Development of People
- *One Great Hour of Sharing Financials

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls collected \$31.00 in 2018.



sharing resources. changing lives.

Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting past, present and future leaders

When is the CJ offering received? The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season.

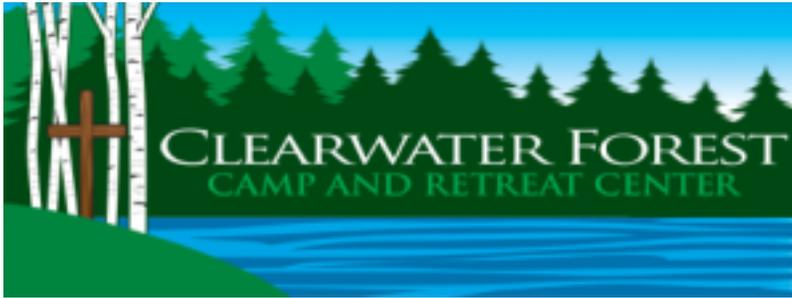


How is CJ used? A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

- *The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
- *Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls collected \$495.00 in 2018.

2 Presbyterian Summer Camps Clearwater Forest & Lakeshore



Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to Clearwater Forest! Every dollar counts and we truly appreciate your partnership with us in our ministry. Your gift will provide opportunities for people of all ages to experience Clearwater Forest's sanctuary in God's woods and waters. As we move into another camp season, I am thankful for your support to assist in providing countless

opportunities for youth and adults to experience the joy of camp, build incredible relationships, try new things and to deepen their faith, all while having an amazing time! Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture active Christian community, and be a faithful steward of God's creation.

Again, thank you for your support of our ministry.

In Christ, Tami Jacobs Administrator

Thank you for your continued support! ~ Clearwater Forest Guest Group

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to each of these camps with Regional funds.**



Summer Camp Clearwater Forest Camp

Dear Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for allowing me to come to camp again! I am having a TON of fun!

Thank you! ~Grace Caraway

Dear Church, Thank you for letting me go to camp. I had fun. My favorite part about camp was gaga ball and meeting friends. The mosquitoes didn't bite me like they bit my sister. My counsellor was from England. Thank you!

~Asher Caraway

Thank you for sending me to camp! The first day was the best because I got to see old friends and meet new ones, and to talk and hang out with them. The camp fires were fun because of the singing and praying and the attitude was happy. The counselors cared for all the kids like they were their children.

Grounds were beautiful because there were gardens and it was just so green.

IT WAS FUN PERIOD!

~ Charlie Milhausen

***Through a private donations, The First Presbyterian Church was able to pay out \$3,360.00 to send 6 kids to Clearwater Forest Summer Camp.**



Safe Avenues



Shelter House began in 1978 as a program of Woodland Centers, a non-profit mental health center serving West Central Minnesota. In 1995, the agency added Harmony Visitation Center which provides parenting time services. The agency also added domestic violence community advocacy programs for Kandiyohi, Renville, and Swift Counties, and the Criminal Justice Intervention Program. In 1999, Shelter House became an independent 501(c)(3) agency. That same year, domestic violence community advocacy programs were added for Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Meeker Counties.

In May 2005, after a successful capital campaign, the Shelter opened its doors to a 16 bed emergency shelter. Later that year, Shelter House added youth programming and began providing sexual assault victim advocacy services in

Swift, Renville, and McLeod counties. In 2006, sexual assault victim advocacy services were added for Kandiyohi County.

In 2010, Shelter House officially changed its name to Safe Avenues to better reflect the services provided and the various avenues to safety.

Today, Safe Avenues provides advocacy, parenting time services, and emergency safe shelter to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

To The First Presbyterian Church

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to Safe Avenues. Our services include emergency shelter, safety planning, safe supervised partnering time, supervise exchange of children from one parent to another, court advocacy, hospital advocacy, support groups and assistance to victims in their search for jobs, housing, childcare and more.

For the past 35 years we have lifted the cloud of fear, restored safety, provided hope, value and dignity to the survivors of domestic and sexual violence and children at risk of abuse or neglect. Our program assists hundred of men, women and children each year who are survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence. Our staff provides assistance through crisis calls, advocacy and safe parenting time.

By supporting the work of Safe Avenues, you are ensuring that victims and families are able to regain the confidence, skills and resources necessary to move from victim to survivor and from savior to a participating member of the community.

Thank you for you support, Safe Avenues

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to Safe Avenues.**

Mission Trip to Omaha



Dear First Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the leadership team in Bridge Church, I want to thank you for your recent gift to Bridge Church. We are so grateful for your partnership in helping us experience lives being changes, restored and released to change the world.

We love and appreciate you, Rob Jonson; Pastor, Bridge Church

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$491.79 in supplies for this Mission Trip.**

***The First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee gave \$100.00 for donations during this Mission Trip from the Regional funds.**

Jamestown Campus

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you! I cannot adequately express my appreciation for your unexpected financial contribution to the University of Jamestown campus ministry fund. Last year, the school made a significant decision to hire me, as their full-time chaplain. They hadn't had a full-time chaplain for numerous years. This meant they took a step of faith to do so. This decision significantly stretched their budget. Unfortunately, they were and are only able to budget \$3,700.00 for campus ministries. This amount is to cover all programming expenses and my continuing education experiences. Thankfully, God has had blessed the ministry with gifts such as yours.

Our campus ministry is robust and growing. As chaplain, I offer a wide variety of ministry opportunities including: Cross Training (athletes & faith), Faith & Life chat (discussion of contemporary issues from a faith perspective), Bible study for faculty and staff, "Building Up" events (missional outreach), worship and a Habitat for Humanity group. I have the joy of working with four campus ministry teams: worship design, music ministry, spiritual formation and fellowship and missional outreach.

I spend a significant amount of time meeting with students one-on-one and providing pastoral care. The needs are varied and great. This year some of our students have experienced significant losses due to the death of a loved one, difficult relationship issues, suicidal ideology, etc. Your gift allows me to focus on students and extend the love and hope of Jesus Christ to them.

I am grateful for your thoughtfulness. Thank you for your generous contribution. May your ministry be blessed as you graciously give to others. God's Blessings, Rev. Dr. Candace S. Adams, University of Jamestown Chaplain

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to Jamestown Campus from Regional funds.**

Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Indian Church

Located in the Upper Sioux Community, Granite Falls, MN

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to the Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church from Regional funds.**

Christmas Gifts for Pejuhutazizi Church

Christmas gifts were purchased for the Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church in Granite Falls.



***The First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee donated \$692.26 to this project from International, National and Regional funds.**

Willmar Church "Family Promise"



How It Works: The Family Promise Program provides more than just shelter. We help homeless families cope with their current housing crisis and teach them life-skills that will enable them to return to independent living and self-sufficiency. Guests in the program are served during the day at our Day Center and are transported by van to Host Congregations at night. Congregations are only available in the evenings from 5:30 pm until 7 am. Unless working, guests arrive at the Host Congregation,

usually by the Family Promise van, between 5:30 and 6 pm, each evening. There, volunteers will prepare and serve our families meals and provide safe sleeping quarters. Every night dinner is served family style at approximately 6 pm; items are available to pack sack lunches for the following day, and each morning breakfast is served before guests leave the Host Congregation. During the week, guests learn life-skills tied to job readiness/retention, tenant aspects, budgeting, healthy communities and nutrition. Each morning, at 7 am, the families are transported back to our Day Center, where they search for jobs and housing, and receive case management support as they work on self-sufficiency plans. On Sundays, families pack up their belongings and volunteers move the beds and luggage to a new congregation where each family will stay for another week. Family Promise offers assessment, service planning, referrals, and advocacy to our guests. The Director and the family develop individualized self-sufficiency plans as a team. All adults continually work on their goals. A family's stay in the program is contingent upon positive participation and active efforts toward goal achievement. Typically our guests graduate from the program in 2 or 3 months.

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your donation to our Program! :) It is greatly appreciated. If you would ever like myself or a board member to come and visit with you about "Family Promise", we would be more than happy!

~ Heidi Kohls, Director "Family Promise"

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$500.00 to the Willmar Presbyterian Church for "Family Promise" from Regional funds.**

Second Harvest

The Face of Hunger Today

All people deserve to eat, regardless of the choices they've made or the hands they were dealt in life. No one can grow, maintain good health or reach their full potential if they are hungry. A surprising number of our neighbors are doing something they never imagined – visiting one of our agency partner's food shelves for the first time in their lives.

Who is hungry?

Working families: totaling more than half a million people visit food shelves.

Children: are more than 33 percent of the people you help.

Seniors: are the fastest-growing segment of the population visiting food shelves.

Post-secondary students: use food shelves at a time when they have very few resources.



***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$300.00 to Second Harvest for Christmas Meals from Regional Funds.**

Pastor's Projects

Ministerial Donation

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls donated \$200.00 to this project from Local funds.

Redwood Falls Rotary Club

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls donated \$250.00 to this project from Local funds.

Community Family Outreach

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls donated \$500.00 to a local family in need from Local funds.

Belview Learning Center

Following the suicide of one of their students, the Mission Committee reached out to the staff and students of the Belview Learning Center to let them know we were thinking of them.

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls donated \$366.31 to this project from Local funds.

Waterpark Passes



*Hello from ALL of us at Southwest Health and Human Services, We would like to send a big THANK YOU to whomever it was that donated family passes to the Redwood Falls Aquatic Center for us to distribute to families in need. How wonderfully kind, generous and beyond thoughtful. Words cannot express how much you and this gesture is appreciated!
Thanks Again, SWHHS*

We just wanted to send a note of thanks for the family pool pass. We've used it many times already and anticipate going even more as other activities end. This is an incredible blessing to our family and we are all so grateful for it.

*Through a private donation of \$1,500.00 the First Presbyterian Church was able to purchase 10 family passes for our local Aquatic Center for families in our community.

*The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls used \$375 of Local funds to purchase 3 pool passes.

The First Presbyterian Church Angel Fund

The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls will now be hosting funerals for children free of charge to the family of the deceased child. Our church will donate food for the funeral luncheon, as well as the labor of the pastor, the musician, and the luncheon servers. The average cost of these services is about \$2,500 per funeral. We are very thankful for the privilege of being the comforting hands of Christ in this way to a grieving family. In order to provide these services a special fund, The Angel Fund, has been set up. Money can be donated directly to this fund by writing "The Angel Fund" in the memo line of your check, or on the offering envelope. Please consider donating to The Angel Fund so that FPC can show the tender love of our Father to families who are so badly hurting.

Children's Weekend Food Bags



When our church started filling food bags for elementary children, the percent of children receiving free or reduced lunch meals was approximately 35%--the current percent is around 75%. With the changing needs of the children in our community, food bags are becoming more and more important. This is an important part of the mission work we do in our community.

Our weekend food bags supported many children and families in 2018. Again partnering with the United Methodist Church, we packed 1,935 bags of food in 2018 for children (First Presbyterian Church packed approx. 967 bags). Our weekly bag totals ranged from 48-56, serving approximately 40 different families (each child in a family is given a bag of food). The bags contained over 15,000 lbs of food total. A typical bag might contain a can of Ravioli or Beefy Macaroni, a can of corn or beans, a can of applesauce or pears and 2 pkgs of ramen

noodles or macaroni and cheese. Because we are able to order food through our local food shelf, we are able to keep the average cost per bag at about \$2.12. We also send home breakfast items home for each family several times each month. We might send pancake mix and syrup (approx. cost \$1.60/family) or peanut butter (\$1.18) or cereal (\$1.68/15 oz box). Our total cost for the year is about \$5,000 (half of which is paid by the Methodist Church). We constantly discuss how to improve the bags and attempt to give them more healthful options, because of shelf life and storage, our options are limited.

Thank you to those that have helped transport bags to the school, packed bags in church, brought in grocery bags or donated money to help continue this ministry.

***Through private donations and our partnership with the Methodist Church, The First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls paid out \$3,436.58 for this on-going project.**



Friendship Dinners

As a continued outreach project the First Presbyterian Church offered a free dinner to the community during the months of January through May and again for Christmas Eve.

***The First Presbyterian Church paid out \$667.06 from the collections during these dinners.**



Share the Spirit

The Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church sponsored a family for the holidays. The Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church also sponsored the M&M Trees once again this year, collecting 342 items. Youth Faith in Action purchased toys for under the Deacon's M&M trees.



***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$400.00 to this project from Local funds.**

Rummage Sale Mission Work

We once again were overloaded with stuff from our own membership as well as community members. Our profits were \$1,769.86. The bulk of the profit was used for a Mission Trip to Costa Rica. As is our tradition we tithed 10% to missions including: the Reede Gray Clothes Closet, the Apple Gourd Project and Rubys Pantry. All leftover items were donated to the local thrift store.

*Dear Friends at the First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your donation. Donations like yours assist us to serve many.
God Bless All of You, Volunteers at Redwood Westside Center*

*First Presbyterian Church, I have placed our WONDERFUL supply of undies and leggings/
sweatpants away in our baskets. Your church is so kind, thoughtful and amazing for donating the
clothing to the health office at Reede Gray. It is definitely a need and something that gets used
almost daily!*

Thank you again, Anna Thomes/Redwood Area Schools



***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$250 to Ruby's Pantry, \$250 to the Apple Gourd Project and \$100 towards purchasing clothes for the Reede Gray Clothes Closet. The remaining balance of the Rummage sale profits funded the Costa Rica mission trip.**

Backpack Ministry (School Supplies)

The Backpack Ministry is such an asset to the community in so many ways. Each year there are more and more families from our community that are in need of an extra little help, and to be able to do something as simple as putting a backpack together to help someone out. It is the meaning of this project and the meaning of what mission work is all about!

***Through a private donation, The First Presbyterian Church paid out \$3,024.53 for this project, packing 119 backpacks.**



Choices Pregnancy Center "Change For Life" Campaign



Dear Friends at the Redwood Falls Presbyterian Church, I am writing to express my sincere thanks to your congregation for participating in the "Change for Life" baby bottle campaign this October. I was privileged to visit your church on the last Sunday of September, and to encourage your congregation to take part in the goal of filling baby bottles with change to benefit Choices Pregnancy Center.

I am happy to report back on your church's contribution! For those that participated, \$376.98 was collected! Combined with nine other area churches, the impact of the baby bottle campaign in 2018 has now reached over \$5,000! The funds are immediately put to work, benefiting the mothers, fathers and babies that we serve. In the last three months alone, Choices Presence Center has proved 2 free pack-and-play cribs to women that needed a state spot for their baby to sleep, 5 lessons on health nutrition, over 20 pregnancy related lessons and over 50 parenting education lessons! In addition, we have supplied nearly 350 different items to our clients of our Baby Buck Boutique! As you have participated in collecting "Change for Life", you have partnered with us to provide these services at no cost to our clients. We are extremely thankful!

Again, please accept my thanks for your participation during the past month; what may seem a small amount of change added up to a big difference in the lives of families in our community!

With Gratitude, Carrie Meyers, Executive Director

***Through private collections, The First Presbyterian Church donated \$376.98 to this project.**

Piecemakers

This May we celebrated 15 years of being together and making quilts. We have a great group of women from the community that are instrumental in doing just a great job. We appreciate them all so much.

Some of our accomplishments are as follows:

In January, we gave away 36 quilts to "We Care" in Morgan for the less-fortunate.

Others we gave quilts to; Share the Spirit, Hospice, friends and members of our congregation that were hospitalized and in nursing homes, baptisms, 5 graduates, Deacon's M&M Tree. In all we gave away 132 quilts.

Our ½ price Share the Spirit sale was fantastic this year. Thanks to all who participated. We sold 20 quilts and gave them to our local Share The Spirit. Piecemakers ourselves, sponsored a family of 4 and gave each a quilt, gifts and food.

We gave money to the Deacons for the Food Shelf in March, for Minnesota Food Share Month. We also gave money to the Library Foundation, Freezin' for Food, Senior Center, Red Kettle, and the Ronald McDonald House.

In November, we gave 17 more quilts to "We Care" in Morgan. They sure appreciate the donations. 16 quilts were sent for the homeless with our youth on their Omaha Mission Trip. Laura, YFA leader, phoned us from Omaha to tell us how much they were appreciated. Thank you Laura! We also gave a monetary donation to the youth during their Mission Trip fundraiser at the Men's Turkey Dinner.

We continue to meet the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month and everyone is invited to join us. We always have quilts on hand, so please contact Marlys or Char and we'd be happy to help you select one for your needs.

We pray God will keep working through us in this wonderful ministry.



***The Piecemakers donated a total of 45 quilts to help warm the homeless (24 to Jeff Schmidt and his project) and to the Morgan FoodShelf (21). Thank you for all you do!**

Food Shelf Donations

As a mission project The First Presbyterian Church donated \$350, from Local funds, during the month of March to three local food shelves.

March is Minnesota FoodShare Campaign month, which is a program where a private organization matches all donations made to all FoodShelves during the month.

Redwood Falls

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 am-noon

Located in the basement of the old Armory Square Mall which is currently the Evangelical Free Church of Redwood Falls.

Our church also has a food shelf grocery cart in the back of the sanctuary to collect food all year long. Our youth does a winter food scavenger hunt throughout the community to add to your collections.

Dear First Presbyterian Church, We would sincerely like to thank you for your donation. It is people like you that give our food shelf the ability to stock our shelves with healthy food to distribute to our clients.

We serve approximately 150-160 families every month with one third of the individuals in the age range of 0-17. With our connection with Wal-Mart, we are able to serve our clients fresh fruits and vegetables as we pick up food supplies from them each day we are open. We also have been given donations which have been designated to be used for our milk program. As we do not have space to store fresh milk, we give what we refer to as a milk voucher to our clients. They in turn go to our local grocery store and pick up a gallon of milk paid for by our donors. Together we have made our food shelf a safe and secure place for people in need to choose healthy foods to feed their families.

Thank you again, your gift is being put to good use.

Sincerely, Cindy Mumme (Food Shelf Coordinator)

***Through private donations the First Presbyterian Church donated food monthly and a total of \$2,052.99 in monetary donations to our local Redwood Falls Food Shelf in 2018.**

The Deacons went to work for the March FoodShare Campaign...

A Thank You From The Deacons...

The Deacons would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you that donated both food and monetary donations for our March Food Shelf Drive! As most of you know, we used the month of March and the March Food Share Campaign to make a difference for our local food shelf, and it was a success thanks to all of you!

We kicked off our project with a Can vs Cash competition... Way to go team Cash! \$285.00 was collected and 30 cans/items!

Week two Lynn Juell took the food items collected week one and came up with some really great recipes!

Week three was a "Hold Up", and boy was it a good one! Maynard Nolting made cute little gunny sacks giving Leon King and Dan Tiffany exactly what they needed to "Hold Up" the congregation for over \$700! You bandits did a great job!

Thank you again for all your wonderful donations! SO many families in our community will benefit from your generosity! ~ The Deacons

***From International, National, Regional and Local funds, the First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee matched the donations collected by the Deacons totaling \$500.00.**

Wafer - Wabasso, MN

Open Thursdays: 9:30-11:30 am - First Thursday of every month: 5-7 pm

Located in the basement of Saint Mathew's Lutheran Church

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your continued support of WAFER. Your donation during the March Campaign will help us feed many families in the coming months. Thank you once again! (\$350)

~WAFER

WeCare - Morgan, MN

Open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9 am-5 pm

Located at 206 Fergus Avenue

Thank you for your continued support to WeCare. (\$350) I would also like to take this time to thank you for letting WeCare pick up the leftover from Ruby's Pantry. So thank you. ~ God Bless, Thoughts & Prayers, Joe Larsen - WeCare



\$100 Check Distribution

As a mission project, all four categories of the Mission Committee handed out 20 \$100 (\$2,000) checks to members of the Presbyterian Church to distribute out to those they feel could benefit from such a gift.

A Thank You Note...

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church, It was a delight to worship with you this past Sunday. Thank you so much for the opportunity to visit your congregation, and to share about the work of Choices Pregnancy Center. The lives of those that we are able to impact, together, are precious to our Heavenly Father. My daughter and I enjoyed sharing the worship service with you! I gratefully accept the donation check (part of the \$100 Mission Checks handed out) to Choices Pregnancy Center on behalf of your church. Each dollar received allows those of us at the pregnancy center to share emotional support, education and practical help with the moms (and dads!) that come to us in need of assistance. Thank you so very much for your generous gift. Your partnership with us allows us to share life-giving hope with our clients. May God bless your congregation, and may you continue to be a blessing to others in our community, just as you have blessed Choices Pregnancy Center with your gift.

With Gratitude, Carrie Meyers, Executive Director of Choices Pregnancy Center

Ruby's Pantry

Sharing the Love of Christ through food every third Tuesday of the month at the Redwood Falls Armory.

What is Ruby's Pantry: To procure and distribute corporate surplus food and goods to help fight poverty, hunger and disease in rural communities in the United States.

Ruby's Pantry Mission Statement: To procure and distribute corporate surplus food and goods to help fight poverty, hunger and disease in rural communities in the United States for those with low resources and in crisis through churches, food shelves and other local civic organizations. To develop the "Blessing Box" concept to activate people in being alert to the needs of others and to be proactive in encouraging, showing friendship and meeting tangible needs of struggling neighbors, friends and strangers regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

Ruby's Pantry had a wonderful year in 2018. December was our 55th distribution in Redwood Falls. With the help of our over 100 volunteers from throughout the community, including several high school/middle school sports teams, and scout troops, we were able to give out 2,662 shares. We had 1,068 registered guests in 2018, with the potential of helping over 4,000 people for the year. We were also able to give away left over food in the form of "blessing boxes" and to the WE Care program in Morgan. In addition, the church was able to benefit from the left over paper products and food for Wednesday night meals and Sunday morning breakfasts, as well as some food for the backpack programs at Reede Gray and Cedar Mountain.

Ruby's requires us to collect a \$20 donation per share from each guest, of which we keep 10% locally. Unfortunately, a large portion of that money we keep is put towards expenses such as rent at the armory and supplies. The remaining money we are able to give away. Every month we donate shares through the local Veteran's service office. We have made several other donations in 2018 such as; Share the Spirit, the Redwood Area Food Shelf, WE Care food shelf, we donated \$1000 to the Omaha mission trip, as well as gave out a \$500 senior scholarship, just to name a few.

Our community is very blessed to have Ruby's Pantry, and our church is fortunate to be leading it. Ruby's brings people of all walks of life in our community together. I feel the volunteers get the most out of it and for that I am thankful. Thank you to all of the volunteers who give so much each month.



Ruby's Shares

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$600.00 to Ruby's Pantry for monthly shares from Regional and Local funds.**

***The First Presbyterian Church donated \$900.00 to Ruby's Pantry for monthly shares through private donations.**

Costa Rica



On July 27, twelve people from First Presbyterian Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran and one Bensonite left Redwood Falls for a 9 day mission service trip to work and interact with children at the Roblealto Bible Home near San Jose, Costa Rica.

Our volunteer work at the mission site included a variety of projects. We sanded and varnished kitchen cupboards, benches, beds and dining chairs. We painted a laundry room and siding at two of the children's homes. We also laid and sanded new flooring in the Chapel and Education Room. While our work projects were fairly simple, the results were so appreciated by the Roblealto Bible Home staff and families and were very rewarding for the people on the trip. Spending time with the 90+ disadvantaged children at Roblealto will have a spiritual impact on the twelve of us that will last a lifetime.

In addition to our work projects, the women on the mission team hosted a gathering for the Roblealto house moms. We made "3 Knot Bracelets" with them, gave them small items to pamper themselves, and enjoyed coffee and treats together. It was such a special time to meet these selfless women and show our appreciation for all they do for the children in their care.

One upshot: The Mission Committee at FPC has decided to financially sponsor a child at Roblealto for one year!

Omaha



I believe that mission trips are so important to be a part of. It is especially important for kids to experience life different from their own, to see how they can help others and to appreciate what they have. We did just that in Omaha this past weekend. My favorite part of going to Omaha was visiting the Sienna Francis House, a wet homeless shelter in a very rough part of Omaha. We served at this location both nights of the weekend.

On Friday night, with a blanket of snow on the ground, being one of the coldest nights this year, we passed out hats, socks, underwear, gloves, and hygiene kits. In the bus we had many coats and blankets that we had brought along with the intention of donating them to another cause the next day. We soon realized while wearing multiple layers ourselves, that we needed to get the items off the bus and give them away to the people in front of us. We had the 17 of us lined up some serving snacks and hot coco and some passing out clothing items. These people were so grateful and so kind. No one took more than they needed. It was so nice knowing that something so simple as a pair of socks would bring them a moment of joy for the day. The next evening we prepared snack bags and sandwiches and then along with some devotionals passed these out to homeless men. Everyone we met was so kind and grateful to receive what we had to offer, if only we could have brought more.

Thank you to those who supported our trip, helping us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you to the Mission Committee, Ruby's Pantry, anyone who donated to the bake/craft sale, goods or money, and to Laura for getting all the arrangements made. ~Lindsey Caraway