

## **A Word of Thanks from FPCP Missions Committee**

*“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it.  
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman*

In the continued uncertainty of 2020, it seems good to rejoice and be thankful for the missions team of FPCP – YOU! Despite the challenges of social distancing, you have responded graciously and generously to committee-sponsored activities. Here are some highlights:

### **“Buy a Bag” Initiative**

Acting on a request from Dave Lettrich, and with coordination provided by Rev. Turis, the Missions Committee sought approval to allocate \$2,000 of mission funding to begin a process of helping Lettrich’s ministry, Bridge to the Mountains, acquire sleeping bags and tents to meet the anticipated needs of those who will be sheltering outdoors this winter. Thanks to your generosity to “Buy a Bag,” more than \$5,000 of additional money has been raised, making the total \$7,200. So far, 30 sleeping bags have been delivered and more will be acquired soon. Twenty tents have also been purchased using the initial \$2,000 ~~outlay~~.

Way to go, Team!

### **2020 FPCP Missions Sunday**

Thanks to some creative logistics, FPCP had the opportunity to gather for Missions Sunday and hear a special sermon from one of our good friends in mission, Rev. Juan Sarmiento. His sermon urged us to decide *who* or *what* we put in the center of our lives and reminded us to always be open to those who are looking for Jesus. A special offering was collected to help our friends, Bread of Life Church in Kozelets, Ukraine. They are operating rehab homes and working to build and renovate a newly acquired space, but things are not easy for them. The amount of the special offering is \$2,387.71 and it is in the process of being transferred. Rev. Bogdan Kulitskii writes:

*“Thank God for you. for your hearts. Say hello from us to the first Presbyterian church, and a huge thank you.*

*Now many are sick, pray for our church, we stopped gathering and closed the women's center for quarantine. Also fewer people work at the construction site and not as often as before. Two brothers live in the new center, they have already repented and are doing well. They help at the construction site every day. The rest come sometimes. Also I and two more brothers work every day at the construction site, if possible. Now we are in a hurry to finish the bathroom at the women's center and at the new men's one. At the same time we insulate the facade of the church and make communications in the church. Work is progressing, but because of the virus, it is slow.”*

Way to go, Team!

**WMI Conference**  
**“Jesus Christ and the ‘Dividing Wall’: Race and God’s Mission”**

For the first time ever, the biennial WMI Conference was held in a virtual format of four Wednesday night gatherings in October. Given that the theme was chosen more than a year in advance, it was affirmed as incredibly timely and important as the church strives to form a response to the injustices of systemic racism. FPCP had the privilege of being one of the sponsors of the month-long conference. More than 800 churches, groups and individuals from all over the US and the world participated. Approximately 15 persons from FPCP took part in at least one of the small group discussions that followed each live presentation. [The speakers were recorded, and you can still listen to their presentations at: [pts.edu/wmi-conference](https://pts.edu/wmi-conference)]

Way to go, Team!

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