

Outreach Committee

Mission:

The Outreach Committee, as an instrument of a [Matthew 25 church](#), serves to discern and direct FPC to action in response to the many needs of those who suffer in our community, state, nation, and world. Along with other faith communities and organizations we work to dismantle structural discrimination and eradicate systemic poverty. We stand in solidarity with those pushed to the margins.



Outreach Activities and Support



Christ has no hands on Earth but ours. The committee's role and activities are explained in the [Spring 2022 issue](#) of First Press (pp.3-4) by chair, Mark T. Nelson.



Below are some of the ways we are 'hands on' in our world. Each activity has a short description with a link to more information as well as an email link (at the bottom) to contact us if you have questions or might like to be involved with that activity.

Immigration Action Team (IAT)

The IAT identifies and implements ways for our congregation to bring the Matthew 25 call to "welcome the stranger" and "love your neighbor" to life. The Team's past and current projects include:

- ["Know Your Rights"](#) workshops to connect undocumented neighbors with expert knowledge
- Bracelet program to support the reunification of children separated from families at the border
- Clothing collection for Afghan refugees housed at Fort McCoy
- Providing support for the [Juntos](#) education program for Latinx teens and families
- Working with others in the Marshfield community to help resettle refugee families from Africa
- Providing space and support for the [Mobile Mexican Consulate](#), with additional opportunities to collaborate going into the future
- Supporting future legislation offering driving privileges to undocumented workers



Rainbow Team

FPC is a More Light Congregation. The mission of [More Light Presbyterians](#) is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. Closely connected to this, our Rainbow team consists of FPC members who work together to help usher FPC to a greater understanding of the LGBTQIA spectrum, and to create an inclusive, affirming environment for our LGBTQIA siblings. As an example, Rainbow Team members participated in the successful development of the [Marshfield Chapter of PFLAG](#)



Soup or Socks (SOS)

[Soup or Socks](#) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing food and clothing at no charge for those in need in the greater Marshfield area. The S.O.S. Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are at First Presbyterian Church. Church members volunteer on the S.O.S. board and in staffing the Pantry and Closet. Volunteers receive, sort, and distribute the food and clothing donations.



Refugee Resettlement of Marshfield (RRM)

FPC members volunteered on a team that is part of RRM. Under the guidance of the [Ethiopian Community Development Council](#) office in Wausau the team prepared for the arrival of an African refugee family and then welcomed and supported them in their resettlement. This involved housing, transportation, health, education, cultural adjustment, jobs and finance. Here's an [article](#) about this work.





The Nutrition On Weekends (NOW)

FPC members volunteer preparing food packs for children using the [NOW Program](#) is a collaborative, community effort to target childhood hunger. The program provides healthy, ready-to-eat nutritional foods for children during the weekend. The program was created in response to data collected from Marshfield students as part of the [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) which found In 2021, 28% of Marshfield Middle School students and 16% Marshfield High School students indicated they had gone to bed hungry at least once in the past 30 days because there was not enough food in the home.

Winter Wipe Out

Each February, the congregation of FPC participates in a product drive to benefit these local organizations:

- Marshfield Area Respite Care Center ([MARCC](#)), which provides individuals with dementia with a safe and welcoming place to go during the day.
- Companion Day Services ([CDS](#)), which provides a similar service to individuals with disabilities.

The Outreach Committee coordinates the collection and distribution of paper goods, cleaning products, and craft supplies requested by the receiving organizations. FPC members typically fill 6-8 large boxes with donated items, which allows MARCC and CDS to direct more of their budgets toward programs and experiences for their clients.





Special Offerings

Four times each year, we are invited to financially serve others through the larger community of Presbyterian Churches in the PCUSA [Special Offerings](#). These four Special Offerings include:

One Great Hour of Sharing: The three programs supported by [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Pentecost: The [Pentecost Offering](#) unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and world.

Peace and Global Witness: The [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#) encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. Congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

Christmas Joy: God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The [Christmas Joy Offering](#) addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

More information about the Special Offerings is [here](#).

Follow the PCUSA Special Offerings activities on Facebook [here](#).

Financial Support

We also provide financial support to organizations whose work embodies the [mission](#) of FPC. These include:

- Blessing Box
- [Companion Day Services](#)
- [Mary's Place](#)
- [Marshfield Area Respite Care Center](#)
- [Personal Development Center/Orenda Center](#)
domestic abuse and assault services
- [National & Regional Presbyterian](#) work
- [Synod of Lakes & Prairies](#) – Mission and Vision
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness Portage-Wood Counties](#)
- [Speak Your Peace](#) – The Civility Project
- [Nutrition on Weekends](#)



Considering how you might become involved?

As a [Matthew 25 church](#), we continually ask, “What are we called to do?” Please look at some of the activities and consider how you might be called to that activity.



There are many ways to become involved and serve at FPC. The [Time and Talents Survey](#) provides a list of ways to become involved. Take a look and as you do, listen to what your heart draws you to. It is truly in the giving that we receive.

If interested in serving on Outreach or if you have suggestions for how we may serve others, please contact Outreach Committee chair, Mark T. Nelson by email at info@fpcmarshfield.org