

Mission Connections

In this update on the work and mission of FPC Moorestown, we'd like to tell you about what we're doing to help the many needs from COVID-19 pandemic and what you can do to help.

An excerpt from a letter sent to our congregation from Pastor Stuart Spencer

May 2020

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown,

“Since you excel in so many ways – in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us – I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8: 7)

A famine hit the believers in Jerusalem hard in the middle part of the first century and the Apostle Paul wanted to do something about it. He also wanted help from his friends in Corinth. There were few more frightening words than “famine” in that time. Food shortages caused by a lack of rain spread long-term suffering through families and communities. Even though he wasn't hungry or in personal need, the Apostle Paul felt obligated to help.

In the Grip of Coronavirus

In little more than 10 weeks, the Coronavirus pandemic has upended nearly every nation in the world, including ours. Physical and economic needs are mounting around us. In the United States, more than 85,000 people have died from the virus and more than 30 million individuals have lost their jobs.

As he monitored the dire situation in Jerusalem, Paul saw a wonderful, one-of-a-kind opportunity surfacing. The needs of these fellow disciples opened wide a door for him and the members of the Corinthian church to demonstrate their love for Jesus and His people through participating in a financial gift. The more he thought about it, the more the pieces fit together in his mind. Sacrificial, generous giving makes a big difference and creates a lasting memory. When disciples give this way, the name of God is praised and glorified.

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FPC Moorestown gives \$165,000 for COVID-19 relief

Over the past month, our missionaries, locally and from across the globe, have reached out to FPC Moorestown for assistance due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Last year, funds were made available to us under the generous legacy of Joan Van Camp. The Mission Committee will be sending funding over the next four months to our missionaries who are reporting tragic circumstances of food insecurity, lack of education, beatings, and extreme poverty.

The Mission Committee, with the approval of the trustees and session, have agreed to send \$165,000 in assistance to those deemed most in need. Assistance will occur in three stages with the hardest hit receiving funds first. Prior to sending the final payments, the trustees will evaluate the situation with the church to ensure that we can sustain the additional payments.

The following ministries will receive funding:

LOCALLY

Moorestown Ministerium/Live Civilly Food Pantry
Food Bank of South Jersey
Urban Promise Camden Forward Schools
St. Vincent de Paul of Moorestown
The Philadelphia Project
Christian Caring Center
Feeding 5000
Seeds of Hope



INTERNATIONALLY

Urban Promise International Honduras
Antioch Partners Mexico (Weymeyers)
Haiti Outreach Ministries
Hope Alive Clinic Haiti
Urban Mosaic Mexico
Medical Benevolence Foundation St. Croix Hospital Haiti
Medical Benevolence Foundation Good Sheppard Hospital Congo
Medical Benevolence Foundation Embanweni Hospital Malawi
Nadia Ayoub (Greece) PCUSA
SNEHA India
Glad Tiding India
Hekima Place Kenya
Urban Promise International Africa Ministries



Letter from Pastor Stuart Spencer, continued from page 1.

Our Mission Partners

Shortly after COVID-19 began spreading around the world, our Director of Outreach, Linda Jagiela, started hearing from our local and international mission partners. She spent hours fielding emails and calls from these sisters and brothers, learning that many had immediate urgent needs.

When FPC Moorestown member, Joan VanCamp, died a few years ago, she remembered her church family generously through her estate. A portion of those monies (\$200K) was designated by our trustees and session for distribution by our Mission Team. Before the pandemic struck, these mission funds were expected to be given for capital improvement efforts for some of our key mission partners. Now, with people here and overseas living on the edge of survival, our Missions Team felt we had to rethink our plans.

Working with our trustees, the Missions Team proposed that we distribute \$165,000 for COVID-19 relief. Local and international partners will receive money in three payments. While our leadership wants to provide financial assistance to these ministries, we are closely monitoring our financial situation and will approve each of the three payments over the coming months. Session also intends to keep all FPC Moorestown employees at full salaries.

Continued on page 6

Hekima Place's Kate Fletcher stuck in Pittsburgh to wait out the quarantine

When Kate Fletcher boarded a plane in March 2020 to head to the United States for her annual visit, she never expected that she would be sitting in an Air BNB in Pittsburgh for months on end. Stranded by COVID-19, Kate has used this time making videos about her ministry and starting a memoir. She explained that only 11 children and their caregivers remain at the school.

The rest of the children were sent home to family prior to the shutdown. Two of the remaining children are babies who have not yet been adopted. Everyone is safe and the school has opened up to give water to the community. She has raised funds to keep paying the staff and to send food packages to them and to the families. Students were given lessons so that they can keep up on their school work. Kate had been looking forward to a big fund raiser in Pittsburgh for Hekima Place with a Beatles Tribute band but instead she is rocking in quarantine.

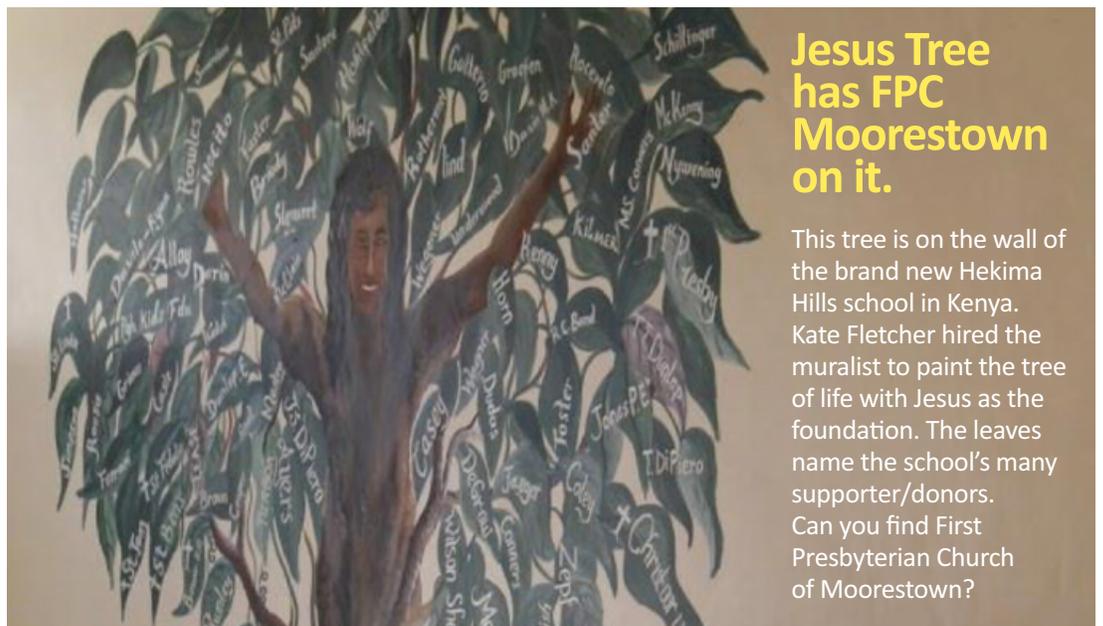
Hekima Place was founded in 2005 by Kate Fletcher who left her life in Pittsburgh, Pa., to volunteer with AIDS orphans in Kenya. It is a safe, loving, faith-based home for girls. They support excellence in education and empowerment for the girls' futures. Their vision is to promote the contribution of educated Kenyan girls for the good of Kenya and the world.

Hekima Place lives out their belief each day that

- Every human being deserves compassion, care and respect
- Children have the right to be protected, loved and valued
- Girls around the world have the potential to create stable, prosperous, just societies
- Through education to empower their futures, young women in Kenya will make positive contributions to their families, communities, and society as a whole



Kate Fletcher spent some of her own childhood in an orphanage in Philadelphia and then moved to Pittsburgh to become a Sister of the Divine Redeemer. Later in life she was a teacher, lab technician, and nursing home administrator. After marrying Dr. Leonard "Fletch" Fletcher, the couple devoted countless hours to an impoverished Appalachian community in West Virginia. Kate was widowed at a relatively young age in 2002 and began to feel called again to a life of service. She moved to Kenya and founded Hekima Place in 2005.



Jesus Tree has FPC Moorestown on it.

This tree is on the wall of the brand new Hekima Hills school in Kenya. Kate Fletcher hired the muralist to paint the tree of life with Jesus as the foundation. The leaves name the school's many supporter/donors. Can you find First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown?

Let's lift up UP Fellows who have graduated!

FPC Moorestown supports the Urban Promise School of Entrepreneurial Leadership (UPSEL) or Fellows Program at Urban Promise International. Happily, they have had their last class at Eastern University where they completed their studies and earned master's degrees in International Leadership. These last few months of their program are key months for them to be reaching out to churches and individuals, working to gain sponsors to support their ministries and raise funds to go home to kick off their work. That has not happened.

After two years of being away from home and families, they are staying in their U.S. homes anxiously awaiting and wondering when they will be able to return to their countries and continue their ministry plans. Their isolation hits hard when you think about how they have anticipated going home, as well as the concern for their home countries that do not have the necessary medical supplies or resources for the government to provide stimulus funds or even food to eat.

Please consider doing the following:

1. Send a graduation card via snail mail to the Fellows and offer an encouraging message. (If you are able to accept just one of these suggestions, please do this one.)
2. Go to their Facebook pages and Like and follow their ministries. This will start the momentum and create more awareness. If you see something you especially like, share it!
3. Read through their Facebook and web pages to learn how they are already making disciples and creating positive change in their communities.
4. Consider supporting them financially.

Imagine being away from home two years and then being told your return home is delayed indefinitely. Please help us and them celebrate their accomplishments! Here is their contact information:

Ishmael Adam

Love Driven Ministries Malawi
327 N. Front St.
Camden, NJ 08102
www.facebook.com/lovedrivenministries.org
Website: www.lovedrivenministries.org

John Kathuri

Youth Promise Centre Kenya
1002 N. Lombard St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
www.facebook.com/YouthPromise-Centre-Kenya-723033501382045
Website: www.youthpromisekenya.org

Giftie Umo

Leading Girls Network
1002 N. Lombard St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
www.facebook.com/leadinggirlsnetwork

Kangar Topoe

CELDI Liberia
1002 N. Lombard St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
www.facebook.com/celdiinc.org
Website: www.cediinc.org

Sarah Atai

Children Alive Ministries
3621 Rudderow St.
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
www.facebook.com/Children-Alive-Ministries-1134215443256698
website: www.childrenaliveministries.org

Sarah Anene

Crystal Lens
3621 Rudderow St.
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
www.facebook.com/CrystalLensCareers

Glory Munthali

3621 Rudderow St.
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
(She will be staying for a 3rd year and receiving more training on trauma therapy)

Dorothy Komoto

3621 Rudderow St.
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
(She will be staying for a 3rd year to work with her cofounder, Lucy, to establish and fundraise for their ministry that will launch in Blantyre, Malawi, in 2020- Their ministry will be called Young and Empowered.)



Have you seen the Blessing Box?

If you're hungry, help yourself! If you can provide food and necessary items for others, thank you for your help, concern, and donations! This "cupboard" is conveniently located on the Bridgeboro Road side of the church campus. As one might imagine, it's been getting a great deal of use.

If you can, when you shop, pick up one or two of the following items to donate:

- Proteins such as canned chicken, tuna, and SPAM
- Pasta sauce
- Canned soups that contain proteins such as beef stew and chili
- Canned fruits or fruit cups
- Canned vegetables – preferably with flip tops
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Granola bars
- Macaroni and cheese cups
- Crackers
- Juice boxes
- Infant cereal
- Hygiene items such as soap
- Toothpaste
- Hand wipes
- Toilet paper

Please leave your donated items outside the front doors of the Commons Lobby. **You don't have to come in the church building. We'll pick them up daily.**

Thank you for your help!

Look What's Happeni

Hope abounds at Hope Alive Clinic in Haiti

“Hope Alive Clinic and Solace Hospital have stayed open and will continue to operate, thanks to our faithful and loyal Haitian staff as well as YOUR faithful prayers and financial support,”

writes Pastor Frank Jacobs. Three of the babies were suffering with high fevers this month. They are especially vulnerable as all suffer from malnutrition as well as other conditions caused by being born malnourished.



Yamba well helping entire community

Last year, FPC Moorestown funded the digging of a well for YAMBA, an Urban Promise Africa ministry. As you can see from the photo, the well will get much use. Clean water is a challenge in the remote village where this ministry works with vulnerable children in Uganda.

Most homes do not have running water. Reports from Keneth Ndyamuhaki, the executive director of the ministry, explain, “Fortunately, our Food and Nutrition program has not been closed. We shall be visiting homes of our beneficiaries to assist with any food supplies we may have for them.

The community has suffered greatly as many people work by setting up stands in the market to earn a living and all of these have been closed.

We had severe storms here a few weeks back with hail that devastated many of the crops. What did survive was then taken by the return of the locust. We are seeing food shortages and prices increasing on what we are able to obtain. We are committed to take food and educate our community on hand washing and sheltering in place.”



Urban Promise
believe. become. belong. be promise.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOORESTOWN MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to:

Worship God faithfully

Connect spiritually

Serve Christ locally and globally.

mission

['miSHən]

NOUN

1. an important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes, typically involving travel. “a trade mission to Mexico”

synonyms:

assignment • commission • expedition • journey • trip • errand • undertaking • operation • task • job • labor • work • chore • business • duty • charge • trust • message

- a group of people sent on a mission.

“by then, the mission had journeyed more than 3,500 miles”

synonyms:

delegation • deputation • commission • task force • legation • representation • delegacy

- an organization or institution involved in a long-term assignment in a foreign country.

“the head of the West German mission”

ng Around the World

Urban Mosaic is on the frontline in Mexico City

Our friend Jean-Luc Krieg writes, “This week we are working hard on installing hand washing stations so that 7,500 families have access to water. This is just part of our response to COVID-19 impacting thousands of individuals. Together, we handed out close to 20,000 flyers and 11,000 soaps, directly speaking to more than 3,000 families and encouraging people to take COVID-19 seriously. We identified homes with people who have preexisting conditions and residents older than 65.

Finally, dozens of pastors and community leaders have already shown signs of severe economic distress, which has compelled us to give away food baskets to 100 distressed leaders and pastors for one month.”

FPC Moorestown’s Mission Team visited Urban Mosaic in November 2019.

Medical Benevolence Foundation Hospitals are stepping up

In the April 22nd partner update, Andy Mayo writes, “With political tensions amid the global pandemic, protests are adding havoc as the COVID-19 numbers rise in Malawi, Haiti and Kenya. The initial social distancing measures of one to two meters apart (3 to 6 feet) and hand hygiene were adapted with little resistance. But the escalation to lockdowns has led to group protests that threaten to undo the progress being made in slowing the spread of the virus.

To date, Haiti has 210 confirmed cases and 18 deaths. Reports from our partners indicate that the general Haitian population is not taking the virus seriously. Despite education and some restrictions from the government, markets and other activities are continuing.

Early this week MBF Chief Medical Officer Dr. Douglas Lungu reported staff from partner hospitals were much more equipped than expected because of supplies MBF gave them last year! In reassessing inventory, they discovered PPE including masks and hand sanitizer that will help keep our partners safe. A quick look at an expiration date for the hand sanitizer revealed that they happened upon this just in time – it expires at the end of the year. Just another way God is showing his provision as supplies are still difficult to find.

Visit <https://medicalmission.org/media/stories-of-impact> to see more of what is happening at the hospitals in Haiti.



2. the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith.

“the Christian mission”

synonyms:

vocation • calling • pursuit • goal • aim • quest • undertaking • purpose • function

3. a strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling.

“his main mission in life has been to cut unemployment”

synonyms:

aim • goal • purpose • objective • object • grail • holy grail • target • intention • intent • design • motive • aspiration • wish • desire • ambition • raison d'être

Letter from Pastor Stuart Spencer,
continued from page 2.

Session Approves Special Offering

At their April meeting, session approved the distribution of these funds. They also approved a special Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering. Money collected from this offering will be distributed to local mission partners under the direction of our deacons and Mission Team. I invite you to consider participating in this opportunity to help our neighbors now. I also ask that you continue your current levels of giving to the church as you consider supporting this special offering which allows us to give beyond what we normally do. As a congregation, we're carefully considering the call to become followers or disciples. Disciples of Jesus readily and joyfully sacrifice for the sake of helping others.

You can contribute to this offering by writing a check to the church and marking **Pentecost COVID-19 Offering** in the memo line or by using the dropdown through the [electronic giving link](#) on our website. On the day of Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit sent disciples out into the world as living symbols of God's love.

We invite you and your family to participate in our deacons' Food Pantry Parade on Pentecost Sunday. Church and community members will donate bags of food, and gloved volunteers will unload the cars. Some of our staff will thank and bless contributors. God give us incredible opportunities to provide real help to many.

As Paul noted, "For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ." (2 Corinthians 9: 13)

May God bless you as He uses all of us for His sake and glory.



Stuart H. Spencer



FPC Moorestown Zooms Mission Book Group

Twelve energetic, committed, and fun-loving people met via Zoom on Monday, May 18, to discuss *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father Greg Boyle. Boyle is a Jesuit priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries, a gang intervention program located in Los Angeles. All agreed the parables he relayed from working in the ghetto were inspiring and motivating. You can learn more about his work by watching his talks on YouTube.

The new Mission Book Group will meet again on Monday, June 15, at 6 p.m. (via Zoom) to discuss *In the Presence of My Enemies* by Gracia Burnham. This is a gripping true story of American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham's year as hostages in the Philippine jungle. It was a *New York Times* best seller.

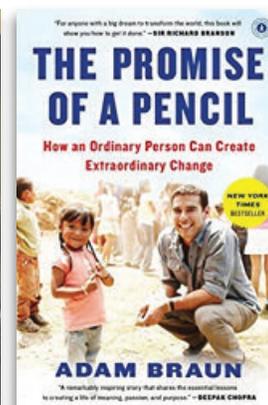
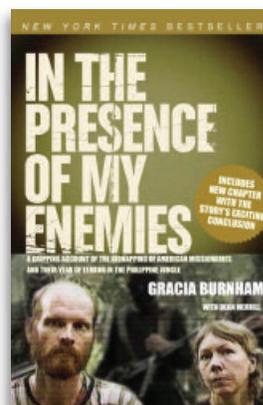
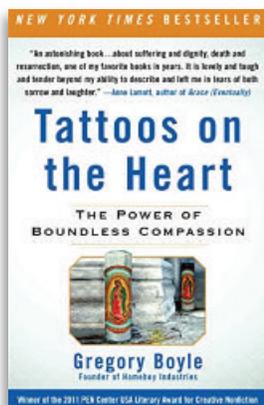
The third book scheduled is Adam Braun's *The Promise of a Pencil*. Braun began working summers at hedge funds when he was just 16 years old, sprinting down the path to a successful Wall Street career. While traveling as a college student, he met a young boy begging on the streets of India.

When Braun asked the boy what he wanted most in the world, he simply answered, "A pencil."

This small request became the inspiration for "Pencils of

Promise," the organization Braun would leave a prestigious job at Bain & Company to start with just \$25 at the age of 24. Using his unique "for-purpose" approach, he helped redefine the space in which business, philanthropy, and social media intersect. Pencils of Promise has now built more than 200 schools around the world, proving that anyone can create a movement that matters.

Members and friends of FPC Moorestown are warmly invited to participate in the Mission Book Group. Please contact Linda Jagiela at the church for more information. Zoom log-in information will be on the church website and emailed to those who wish to participate.



VISION STATEMENT:

We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth, growing together in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Meet FPC Moorestown's Director of Outreach, Linda Jagiela

Linda Jagiela has worked at FPC Moorestown for the past three years. She holds an MBA in business administration and BS in marketing and finance from LaSalle University. She has spent the past 20 years working in the for-hire transportation industry in various roles including vice president of business development, publisher of *Limousine Digest* magazine, and editor of *Limousine and Chauffeur Transportation*. She is a professional writer who has written for local newspapers as a stringer and for trade publications. Linda and her husband, Philip, live in Shamong, New Jersey. They have three daughters and a granddaughter, Madison, who is five.

Linda thoroughly enjoys her mission and outreach work. Her arms are open wide, her heart is full, and she is always looking for people to work with her and the currently 12 members of the committee who help in the church's many outreach activities and services. Contact her at 267.275.7582 or email missions@fpcmoorestown.org to learn how your interests, skill sets, and gifts will be graciously welcomed.



Drive-up Food Pantry May 31

Thanks to all who participate in Pentecost Sunday's Drive-up Food Pantry. Enter the campus on Bridgeboro Road, continue through the small drive at the sanctuary, and exit on the side of Miller Commons. Volunteers will help direct you. **We just learned that Feeding 5000 is in urgent need of men's athletic socks, so if you can donate socks, that will be greatly appreciated!** There are unprecedented needs right now.

WHY STATEMENT:

We follow the Great Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39 NRSV

Mission Word Search

Can you find these words?

BLESSING, BOOKCLUB, BRIDGEBORO, CARING, CHRISTIAN, CHURCH, CORONAVIRUS, DISCIPLE, FAITH, FLETCHER, GRADUATES, HEKIMAPLACE, HOPE, MINISTRY, MISSION, MOORESTOWN, OUTREACH, PANTRY, PRAYER, PRESBYTERIAN, SHARE, SHELTER, URBANPROMISE, WAYOFTHEWEEK

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Christian Caring Center sees major increase in food and shelter needs

Madelyn Sutton, executive director of the Christian Caring Center, is working overtime to ensure that clients are not experiencing food insecurities. She tells of the current situation, "Most of the calls and emails that we are receiving are people who are waiting on their unemployment, waiting on Burlington County Board of Social Services applications, looking for jobs, and/or have no income. Some people



Christian Caring Center is operating a drive-up food pantry.

are in outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, and two people have experienced house fires.

We have assisted 36 households in our Rapid Rehousing

Program enabling them to go into new apartments, 56 households in our Homeless Prevention (back rent) from January 1st to April 13th, 2020. We have assisted 77 households (37 of them in the past six weeks) with emergency shelter motel placements to homeless individuals and families. We continue to run our two Men's Shelters, 90-day program, with eight men in them.

Our food programs have been adapted to a drive through pantry and curbside lunches. We continue to go on the street/motel outreach every Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are serving an average of 60 households in the pantry and serving 50 to 65 lunches each day we are open. The county is predicting the numbers needing assistance in May and June will double.

Grant funding that began January 1, 2020, has run out and we are applying for all the grants that we can find, but we are waiting. Donations are down due to the economy and we have already heard from one corporate funder that their charitable contributions are based on their sales and they have been shut down so they are not expecting to be able to grant anyone this year."

Because there are so many unknowns with the Coronavirus pandemic, we are living day to day, praying constantly, and relying on God and the generous people in the area to help to provide the much needed assistance.

The Mission Committee is looking for members

The Mission Committee is looking to fill its ranks with individuals who have a heart for mission. The committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday. If you are interested in joining, please email missions@fpcmoorestown.org.



The Rev. Dr. Bruce Main and graduating UP Fellows visited FPC Moorestown for African Sunday in 2019.

FPC Moorestown Encourages Us by Offering 25 Ways of the Week

As people who have experienced the merciful welcome of Jesus Christ, we belong to Him and to one another. In our desire to grow deeper in our faith, stronger in our love, and more effective in our service, we have outlined "ways" to live, based on God's Word, to be the foundation for creating a culture or an atmosphere "thick with love." They are not rules nor laws to be obeyed, but the ways we train, remind, and encourage one another to be the church. Visit fpcmoorestown.org to read the 25 Ways of the Week and learn how these may make a difference in your life.

Missionwares Store looks forward to re-opening

Everyone looks forward to the church being re-opened following the pandemic isolation orders, and that includes a special ministry of the church, the Missionwares Store located in Miller Commons. It is open on Sundays before and after church services. Merchandise has been purchased directly from free trade merchandisers SERRV and Ten Thousand Villages. These organizations source items in developing countries, giving the artists a fair price for their items.

Items are also purchased when members go on mission trips and from the ministries we are serving. There are a number of crosses and



wall hangings from Haiti that are manufactured from oil drums. Our Mission Committee members visited the area where they make these on their last trip in January 2019. They also visited The Apparent Project there, also a free trade organization that trains widows to achieve a trade manufacturing jewelry and other items. They provide day care for their children and are in the process of building a school.

Proceeds from the store help fund mission trips and other mission needs.

This publication has been produced for the Mission Committee. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

First Presbyterian
Church of
Moorestown

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