

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE®



A Newsletter from the Mission Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

## *MISSIONS CONNECTIONS*

*Special Edition—November 2023*

### Shoe Box November

FPC Moorestown is jumping in full throttle this year with our Operation Christmas Child efforts. Each year, shoeboxes are available for congregants to take and fill with toys and other items. These boxes are used to assist in delivering the Gospel to unreached people groups in over 100 countries.

We have set a goal of **100 shoeboxes** to be collected from our congregation. In addition to packing our own shoeboxes, we will be a collection location for other churches, individuals, and other groups to bring boxes they have collected. Drop off week starts on November 13.

We will need volunteers to unload boxes from people dropping them off, man the welcome desk, and be prayer warriors to pray over the boxes and invite those dropping off the boxes to share their prayer concerns. It will be a busy week and we are asking everyone to pitch in. Youth volunteers are encouraged and they can use this toward community service hours. Visit the events page to sign up.





### **VOLUNTEER DROP OFF SCHEDULE**

#### **Monday, Nov. 13:**

**Shift 1 -3:00-7:00 pm**

**Shift 2 -5:00PM-7:00 pm**

#### **Tuesday, Nov. 14:**

**Shift 1 -3:00-7:00 pm**

**Shift 2 -5:00PM-7:00 pm**

#### **Wednesday, Nov. 15:**

**Shift 1-9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Shift 2 -5:00PM-8:00 pm**

#### **Thursday, Nov. 16:**

**Shift 1 -3:00-7:00 pm**

**Shift 2 -5:00PM-7:00 pm**

#### **Friday, Nov. 17:**

**Shift 1 -3:00-7:00 pm**

**Shift 2 -5:00PM-7:00 pm**

#### **Saturday, Nov. 18:**

**Shift 1 -12:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Shift 2 5:00PM-7PM**

#### **Sunday, Nov. 19:**

**12:00 - 2:00 pm**

#### **Monday, Nov. 20**

**9:00 am - Noon to load the truck to deliver to the central drop off location.**

**Volunteer:**

**<https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/>**

## **The Journey of a Shoebox**

People pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups of all sizes collect boxes from their communities. Our church is one of the churches that serves as drop-off locations for shoeboxes the third week of November every year.

Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour, work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Pastors around the world host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas.

In many places, they also offer The Greatest Gift. It is a Gospel story booklet Samaritan's Purse developed for shoebox recipients. They invite children to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program. As a result of what they learn in The Greatest Journey, boys and girls grow in Christ and can share with friends and family.

The students also invite others to their graduations where the Gospel is shared. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.