



A Guidebook to the Missions of First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, VA.

*Serving Christ and Neighbor in the
Heart of Winchester, VA and Beyond.*

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Winchester, VA 22601
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Guiding Vision and Principles

October 15th, 2024

Church mission statement: *Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond*

Guiding Vision:

As called by Christ to move beyond our comfort zones and take our spiritual gifts out into the world, and as a PC(USA) Matthew 25 congregation, we recognize the faith journey of each of us is enriched by our ministry and service to others in need in Winchester and beyond. Further, as a PC(USA) Creation Care congregation we affirm that our mission extends to the healing of all of God's creation.

Guiding Principles:

- Continually seek God's direction for supporting FPC's mission involvement both near and far.
- Recognize that effective ministry goes beyond providing funding to include giving time, talents, and resources.
- Strive to employ good mission practices; i.e., practices that are collaborative and non-transactional, and where we can build relationships with partners.
- Nurture the faith journeys of our congregation by offering opportunities for mission outreach and growing disciples that include intergenerational activities for children and youth..
 - Make special efforts to develop inter-generational mission activities, including children and youth.
- Give special emphasis to opportunities for mission in the greater Winchester area.
- Recognize that ministry of presence is a legitimate mission outreach.
- Promote and share with the congregation our ministry as a Matthew 25 Congregation that advocates to reduce human suffering. This means a focus on the following three points:
 - building congregational vitality,
 - dismantling structural racism, and
 - eradicating systemic poverty.
- As an Earth Care Congregation, we promote and support good environmental stewardship, this includes reducing our carbon footprint.
- Support local peacemaking initiatives and promote the PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness annual special offering.
- Review these Guiding Principles at least annually and evaluate our suite of outreach projects at the beginning of each budget cycle.

THROUGH THESE PAGES, YOU WILL DISCOVER THE HEART
AND IMPACT OF OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS,
AS WE STRIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.

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Prepared in collaboration with Mission Council, Carolyn Kruger and Sarah Carlton, *FPC Communications Manager*
September of 2024

BRIGHT FUTURES



ABOUT

Serving students and families with basic needs and focusing on needs that impact their ability to learn.

FPC originally supported CCAP who distributed supplies every fall. Now, the distribution is handled through Bright Futures warehouse since 2015. City schools were added in 2017.

We focus on student needs to aid in creating an environment that makes learning more accessible. These needs include clothing shoes, school supplies, food access.

CONTACT

Pam Brannon
Pambrannonwincva@gmail.com

Amy Bowman
amybowman07@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

- Congregation members
 - Children's and Youth ministry

PARTNERS

- Frederick County & Winchester City Public Schools

OBJECTIVE

- Food access: Weekend Food Pack Program- weekly during school year.
- Summer Food- supplemental food boxes to support nutritional needs.
- School Readiness: school supplies - backpacks, crayons
- Basic Needs Packet; shampoo, soap etc.
- Holiday Assistance Sponsors to support students with holiday gifts.
- Christmas Angel Tree - sponsor a family to meet Christmas Gift needs (clothing).

IMPACT

- 28 schools in the year 2023.
- 1500 school children.
- Student volunteers are provided with opportunities to give back to the community.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



ABOUT

Provide Fresh Garden Produce for those who are food insecure.

Organized under FPC Creation Care Team in 2023.

The Community Garden helps the FPC family gain a deeper gratitude and sense of stewardship for God's creation with a specific focus on feeding our Neighbors in Christ.

There are two Garden Plots consisting of Vegetable and Pollinating gardens. The community garden Facebook page is the primary method for announcing gardening opportunities.

CONTACT Rebecca Morrison
304-261-8360
rebeccapm@5aol.com

VOLUNTEERS

- Community Board Sign-up for harvesting, watering, weeding, turning soil etc.
- Youth Volunteers

PARTNERS

- Fox Urban Farms

OBJECTIVE

1. Teach and provide youth and providing opportunities to engage in stewardship of the earth.
2. Provide fresh produce for Highland Pantry and Sherando Food Pantry.

IMPACT

- 250 lbs. of Produce in 2023

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



ABOUT

Free Annual Thanksgiving meal for the communities of Clarke, Frederick and Winchester.

History: Began in the late 90's under the leadership of the Salvation Army. For approximately 20 years it has been under the leadership of FPC.

The meal had been sit down and delivery. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, only take out and delivery are available.

Operates Solely with volunteers and donations.

CONTACT: Robert Cleaver
Roberta Lake
Lacy Morise
Bill Stewart
Carolyn and Russ Waters
Please ask for contact information.

VOLUNTEERS

- Faith Community Volunteers
- At Large Community Members
- Youth Volunteers

PARTNERS

- Corporate sponsors: H and W Construction-Aikens Group ; USA Produce and Seafood, Partlow Insurance Co.
- Business Supporters: Fast Signs, Human Resources of Valley Health, Jordan Springs Market, Martins Food (Rivendell Ct.), Virginia Farm Market, Costco Winchester
- Church Partners:
 - Braddock St. UMC, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, FPC (Host Site)

OBJECTIVE

To Provide:

- Free thanksgiving meal to all in need of one in the communities of Clarke, Frederick, and Winchester.

IMPACT

- 2023: Approximately 1,200 take out and delivery meals made available to communities identified above. i.e. Winchester House, Senseny Village, Sheandoah Apt., WATTS

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT (CCAP)



ABOUT

Provide stability and security to those struggling to meet basic needs.

FPC has supported CCAP since 1975.

CCAP is a 501(c)(3) non profit, charitable organization that is funded by area faith communities, businesses, civic groups, bequests and most of all many private giving individuals.

CCAP is a community lifeline for all people in our area who find themselves struggling to meet basic needs, providing stability and security while enabling them find paths to self-sufficiency. CCAP was formed in October of 1974 by eleven local churches as the Christian Cooperative Action Program. We then changed our name to Congregational Community Action Project in 1975 to broaden our reach to encompass more need.

CONTACT

Lynn McCauley 540-539-3129
lmccauley@winchesterim.com

VOLUNTEERS

of volunteers 5-10 per week.

PARTNERS

- Church World Service(primary)
 - provides policy oversight
- Valleyhaven Furniture Bank (now an NGO)
- Highland Food Pantry and Faithworks

OBJECTIVE

Five days/week

- Basic food needs-non-perishable
- Perishable food from local grocery stores
- Housing assistance
- Assistance for utilities
- Clothes/shoes
- Red Wagon Diapers

IMPACT

- 40,000 diapers/yr (Red Wagon)
- Food - 1200 persons/ month
- Clothing house/children's clothes – Served 686 households
- Provided with utilities and rent assistance - 389 households - 1,138 individuals

CREATION CARE AT FPC & BEING AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION



ABOUT

Support our mission of being an Earth Care Congregation.

Operational since 2023 with FPC Session approval & PC(USA) earth care designation.

- Help the FPC family gain a deeper gratitude and sense of stewardship for God's creation.
- Reflect on God's intentions for our relationship with Creation.
- Advocate for better use of resources within the Church and amongst all our members.

CONTACT John Crandell
570-898-7168

VOLUNTEERS

- Clean-up events - 40 people on avg.
- Creation Care Sunday School
 - Up to 35 people.
- Community Garden - 20 people on avg.

PARTNERS

- PC(USA)
- City of Winchester
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

OBJECTIVE

1. Community Garden: provide produce to area food banks.
2. Propose efficiencies and clean energy solutions to reduce fuel use.
3. Decrease waste and increase recycling in our food services.
4. Participate in Earth Day.
5. Maintain our Earth Care Congregation designation.
6. Sunday School Classes to increase ecological awareness.
7. Integration with Children's and Youth Ministry.

IMPACT

- Grant received for LED's
- Grants submitted to fund Solar panels to eliminate 95% of our electrical bill
- Creation of a Resilience Hub so the Fellowship Hall could be energy independent for 36 hours for use as a processing center in declared emergency

ETHIOPIA MISSION

ABOUT

Provide relational support for the Meta Ministry in Ethiopia.

Nurture partnerships with Mettu and Ketta congregations of the EECMY.

FPC Mission council interacts with officers and staff of IBS and our partner congregations in Mettu, as well as the national church in Addis Ababa.

"The Ethiopian Partnership falls under the Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO). Through CMO, the Partnership is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Preparing prayer requests for regular prayer for our Partner Synod.
2. Planning visits and interactions with the partners.
3. Serving as a link to missionaries from Shenandoah Presbytery to Illubabor.
4. Providing information and publicity about the Partnership utilizing Partnership web site and Presbytery communication tools.
5. Making budget requests to support these efforts and monitoring the expenditures.
6. Plan regular celebrations of the Partnership."

"The Ethiopian Partnership." Shenandoah Presbytery, Worship Times, shenpres.org/ethiopia/."



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

CONTACT John Fisher 540-336-7997
Chuck Alverson 540-664-1294

PARTNERS

- Shenandoah Presbytery Ethiopian Partnership Committee
- Ethiopian Evangelical Church – Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- Illubabor Bethel Synod (IBS)
- Mettu Congregation
- Ketta Congregation

OBJECTIVE

- Nurture and sustain relationships with partner congregations and synod
- Pray intentionally and regularly for and with our partners
- Plan trips to visit our partners in Mettu and to host them when they visit us

IMPACT

Past programs:

- Aremi Health Clinic (facility and staff support)
- iCARE child sponsorship at Gore Hostel
- English language teaching and visits to Mettu
- Community library (book and fund drive)
- Scholarships for seminary students

FPC (current/recent):

- Prays for our partners in Ethiopia, especially the city of Mettu
- Contributes financially to support Widows and Orphans ministries of Mettu and Ketta congregations
- Hosts visitors from EECMY and IBS
- Participates in presbytery's partnership committee and English language teaching program

GUATEMALA MISSION



ABOUT

Support community theater as a way to help members learn about domestic violence and access to health care.

Established in 2009.

The mission of the Faith Stories Project and Colectivo Teatral Historias de Fe (Faith Stories Theatre Collective) is to empower women in Guatemala and the U.S. by artistically exploring the complexities of how faith affects their lives. It provides a space where women can share their stories and participate in the creation of a collaboratively devised work based on those stories. It allows for mutual support and encouragement, building self-esteem, and creating a sense of community for women of faith in both countries as we struggle to tear down barriers and explore how we are more alike than different.

CONTACT Carolyn Thalman
540-336-1126
cjthalman@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS

2-5 volunteers for fund raising activities and approximately 6 for travel to Guatemala

PARTNERS

- Guatemala Faith Stories Project
- Looking for Lilith Theatre Company
- CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America)

OBJECTIVE

1. Determine progress, and challenges to the growth of the program.
2. Provide training support for community theater performance-for the Theater Company regarding domestic violence.
3. Support a "Ministry of Presence" for the women in Guatemala.

IMPACT

- 7 different communities participate in the theater company activities.
- 6 women have had their phone plans sponsored for the year 2023.

HELPER FUND



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HELPER FUND 

CONTACT Mark Schroeder
Mschroed51@comcast.net
540-686-0898

VOLUNTEERS

- Usually 6-8 for the fund-raising events
 - Fundraising efforts have been concerts, auctions, and storytelling events.

PARTNERS

- C-Cap- Congregational Action Project
- Highland Food Pantry
 - Administers Funds
- Faithworks

ABOUT

Serve marginal neighbors with emergency aid.

Operational since the early 1990's starting with a single donor.

FPC is working together with Faithworks, Congregational Action Project(C-CAP) and Highland Food Pantry to coordinate and increase this family assistance. HF monies go directly to third party providers. The HF is now part of the mission outreach legacy of FPC and has been meeting the emergency needs of many in our community.

OBJECTIVE

Provide financial aid for those in need including:

- housing
- medical expenses
- rent
- utilities
- unexpected car repairs

IMPACT

- Clients are tracked and allowed to seek assistance once per year for three years before reaching their limit of assistance.
- Mission council funds stipend at 330/month

HIGHLAND FOOD PANTRY



ABOUT

Provide food and other assistance to those in need and engage our community in the fight to end hunger.

Operational since 1980s
Currently a Non-for profit with a Board.

Primary Coordination- FPC.

A member agency of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank network, Highland Food Pantry of Winchester, Virginia serves people in the northern Shenandoah Valley experiencing chronic hunger. Our main activity is the distribution of food to individuals and families in need. We are a United Way partner. Highland Food Pantry envisions ending hunger in the northern Shenandoah Valley.

CONTACT Jenny Callis
540-3276427
grcjhc@aol.com

Carolyn Thalman
540-336-1126
cjthalman@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS

- 175 per week
- Monday and Tuesdays

PARTNERS

- Winchester Comprehensive Treatment Center-Congregational Community Action Project (C-CAP)
- Family Promise
- Men on a Mission
- Faithworks

OBJECTIVE

Provide:

- Food to individuals and families that are food insecure every Tuesday morning and evening weekly.
- Special deliveries of food to senior adults who are not able to come to the pantry.
- Special deliveries of food by partnering with Family Promise to delivery to families with children that are currently living in motels.
- Court Ordered Community Service Opportunities.
- Integration of Youth and Seniors as volunteer help.
- Food for patients of the Winchester Comprehensive Treatment Center (methadone treatment center) on a monthly basis.
- Emergency aid for families who have hit a crisis point.

IMPACT

- # of families/individuals in the program = 26,318 (2023) # of households participating = 8,683 (2023)
- # of delivered food boxes to seniors in need = 203 (each month)
- # of delivered food boxes to families through Family Promise = 17 (each month)
- #CTC treatment center boxes = 10 (each month)
- Fundraising: Men on a Mission
- FPC collecting egg cartons

JUBILEE KITCHEN



ABOUT

*Serve Saturday meals for those in the community who are food insecure.
(Anyone who wants a community meal)*

Est. 1994

Jubilee Kitchen offers free lunch year-round on Saturdays in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church. Our congregation supplies volunteers for this ministry every first Saturday.

Lunch is typically a sit down meal starting at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall off of the Loudoun street walking mall.

CONTACT

Chuck Alverson
540-664-1294
Chuck.alverson@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

- 6 -15 per session
- Direct leadership by FPC

PARTNERS

- 4 community volunteer teams
 - Each takes one week per month
- FPC, Burnt Factory, Kernstown UMC, Opequon PC, Boy Scouts, Frederick County Rotary Club, Mountain View Christian Church, Prosperity's Promise and Love Church

OBJECTIVE

Serve meals for guests every Saturday over a period of 52 weeks of the year.

Apple Blossom Saturday and the Saturday following Thanksgiving are the two holidays the kitchen is closed.

IMPACT

Results

- Serve 48-50 meals each Saturday over the year

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

ABOUT

Prepare families for disaster in FPC and Winchester area.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.

CONTACT Dave Thalman
540-336-1125

Coordinator, FPC Disaster Preparedness
& Response

VOLUNTEERS

- The Mission has a disaster plan – not a team at this point.

PARTNERS

- Shenandoah Presbytery - Disaster Preparedness and Response Team
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - National Response Team.

OBJECTIVE

- Maintain FPC Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan.
- Provide a family disaster plan check list.
- Coordinate response of church to the community.
- Connect to FEMA and state VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster).

IMPACT

- Family Disaster Plan Checklist
- Information from PDA and Shenandoah Presbytery

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



ABOUT

Supporting new refugee settlement.

First Presbyterian's Refugee Resettlement team works with Church World Service in Winchester. Although the overall volunteer team is ecumenical and includes many members of the community, FPC volunteers have been faithfully engaged in this work.

Operational since 2016:

- Initiated by Grace Lutheran and expanded to FPC and other churches.

CONTACT Carolyn Thalman
540-336-1126
cjthalman@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS

- FPC Provides Coordination for each refugee move and housing preparation
- Church World Service (CWS) provides 3 volunteers trained by CWS
- FPC, Grace Lutheran, Christ Episcopal provide 6-8 other ecumenical partners

PARTNERS

- Church World Service (primary)
 - provides policy oversight
- Valley Haven Furniture Bank (now an NGO)
- Grace Lutheran, Christ Episcopal and other ecumenical churches

OBJECTIVE

To Provide:

- Coordination of housing in partnership with CWS.
- Provide transportation for moving furniture and individual refugee needs (Dr. appointments, food).
- FPC provides Basic Pantry supplies, Welcome Meal for new homes, and assists with transportation (furniture moving and individual needs).
- *CWS provides housing, cultural orientations, transportation and English language services.*

IMPACT

- 125 individuals to date; 400 individuals currently living in Winchester **(clarification needed)**

SHERANDO FOOD PANTRY



ABOUT

Serve those in our community who are food insecure

Operational since 2019.

USDA certified and affiliated with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. SFP provides clients with food purchased by or donated to the Pantry. Currently serving clients from Frederick, Shenandoah, and Clarke County in Virginia, and neighboring counties in West Virginia.

COORDINATOR

Chuck Alverson
540-664-1294
Chuck.alverson@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

- Secular leadership but local community groups and Church's like FPC provide funds and volunteers

PARTNERS

- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (USDA)

OBJECTIVE

- Provide food to families that are food insecure.
- Two evenings /month 1st and 3rd Thursday.
 - Families are able to choose their preferences.

IMPACT

Participating:

- 20-25 families per week and 70-84 families per month

WINCHESTER AREA TEMPORARY TRANSITIONAL SHELTER (WATTS)



ABOUT

To break the cycle of homelessness one life at a time, we empower individuals to re-enter the workforce and connect individuals to the resources needed to be as self-sufficient as possible while providing a safe, temporary shelter during extreme weather.

Operational since 2008.

WATTS (501-C3) provides case workers and services as needed.

WATTS is a low-barrier shelter, meaning they will take ANYONE who is homeless, regardless of sobriety or criminal background; they seek to eliminate the "barriers" that prevent guests from entering other shelters and simply get them off the streets. For this reason, the shelter is for ADULTS ONLY and all volunteers must be at least 18 YEARS OF AGE.

CONTACT Courtney Warner
540-336-6279
Chw4761@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

- **Food Coordinator:** Debbie Lawall
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Becky Bush
- WATTS Employees available each night
- Approximately 200 volunteers for the week hosted at FPC - including food preparation/service, medical, security/safety

PARTNERS

- 21 Area churches- each take one week (7 days) day-night shelter

OBJECTIVE

To Provide:

- Day-night shelter, safety and security for the homeless for 21 weeks between November and March- the coldest months of the year.
- Meals (breakfast, dinner, and snacks).
- Showers and Hygiene products.
- Basic Medical Care (BP, first Aid, referrals).
- Social Activities and Enrichment (bingo, television, etc).

IMPACT

- Winter months: 35 guests (adults) for 7 days over 21 weeks at various locations.
- Summer months: Cooling Shelter for a few weeks. 12 - 5pm Mon-Sat. *Sundays 1pm-5pm. Summer site varies.

ADDITIONAL FPC SUPPORTED MISSIONS



Fremont Street Nursery opened its door in 1943 to care for the children of mothers who had gone to work to support their families during World War II. It is the oldest licensed child care center in the City of Winchester. Providing more than 70 years of child care services. Fremont continues the tradition of providing quality care for children so their parents can work without worry or concern.

533 Fremont Street
Winchester, VA 22601

Telephone: 540-662-7237
Email: Fremontst@verizon.net



24-Hour Hotline: 540-667-6466
Business Line: 540-667-6160
tlc.info@thelaurelcenter.org

The Laurel Center offerings:

- Emergency shelter and a 24/7 hotline.
- Free therapy and psychoeducational counseling.
- A children's program for children ages 5 -17 who have witnessed domestic violence.
- Sexual assault services including hospital response and crisis intervention.
- Court advocacy services.
- An empowerment program that provides workforce training and job placement services.

Winchester Day Preschool

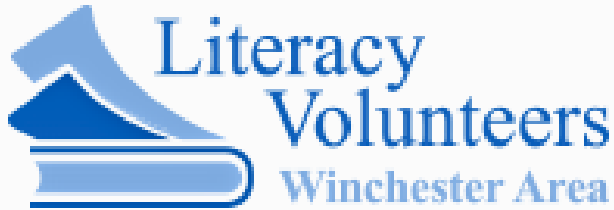


Since 1983, the Winchester Day Preschool has been in operation and serving families in the Winchester, Frederick, and Clarke County areas. The school provides affordable high-quality Preschool and childcare to the community on a sliding scale basis. Preschool and Childcare services are offered to children ages 2-5 years old or until entry into Kindergarten.

133 Lincoln Street, Winchester,
VA 22601

Telephone: (540) 662-2629
Email: suewdps@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL FPC SUPPORTED MISSIONS (CONTINUED)



301 N. Cameron Street, Suite
102 Winchester, VA 22601
Telephone: (540) 536-1648

Provides one-on-one and small group tutoring for adults in the following areas:

- Basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills, English Language Learners (ELL), Computer skills, Financial literacy, Workplace literacy, Citizenship preparation.

They also partner with Just Neighbors who offer low-cost, family-based immigration legal services. A dedicated team of qualified volunteer tutors assists adults in building their literacy skills to be better prepared for today's job market, to get a promotion, and to be more engaged in the community. They provide services to residents of the City of Winchester, Frederick County, and Clarke County.

Wheels for Wellness



Wheels for Wellness provides free, door-to-door transportation to medical appointments and treatment for those in the region lacking other means of transportation.

Proudly serving Winchester, VA and the Virginia counties of Frederick, Clarke, Warren and northern Shenandoah since 2004.

301 N. Cameron Street Telephone: (540) 536-1006
Winchester, VA 22601



435 N Cameron Street
Winchester, VA 22601
info@winrescue.org (540) 667-5379

What does Winchester Rescue Mission do?

WRM works to provide HEALING from the past, HELP for the present, and HOPE for the future - to those who are devastated by the causes and effects of homelessness.