

Jeff's Jottings

The things we do with love

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Are you a follower of the Presbytery's Facebook page? (If not, maybe become one?) It's at <https://www.facebook.com/presbyterytwincitiesarea/>. If so, you know that a good number of our pastors and members were present in St. Paul the Saturday of Palm Sunday weekend for the Twin Cities version of the March for Our Lives, the student-initiated demonstration in support of tighter gun control, gun safety, and vigilance against gun violence. Out of their experiences, a number of our pastors and congregational leaders will come together next Wednesday, April 11, to talk about next steps. There's an announcement about this in a separate EMerge article this week.

About a week later, on April 19, the Minnesota Council of Church will hold an informational meeting about inviting participation in the Minnesota Poor People's Campaign, a part of a national re-commitment to pick up and expand the work that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was doing 50 years ago. (If you're interested in learning more, or possibly attending the morning meeting April 19, let me know.)

We have a Presbytery mission trip leaving Saturday for Louisiana. I encourage you to hold these people in your prayers, as they labor and offer the love of Jesus on our behalf over the next week:

- Jon and Laura Arthur, FPC, Hudson;
- Neal Hubbard, FPC, South St. Paul;
- Larry and Barb Janski, Buffalo Presbyterian;
- Rev. Kirk Johnston, FPC, Hayfield;
- Terrance Johnston, FPC, Hudson;
- Ginger Kirby, FPC, Rochester;
- Ronda Marshall, Community, Rochester;
- Sue Tourville, FPC, South St. Paul;

- Hjordi Van Ausdal, FPC, Hudson;
- Ken Wooley, FPC, Hudson;
- Rev. Brenda Alexander, chair of the Mission and Witness Committee of the PTCA, the organizer of the trip.

The Committee on Ethics announced at the March Presbytery meeting that they are collecting \$10 Cub cards for the people served at Northside Women's Space. "What often drives women to the street are unmet human necessities like food, basic toiletries and electricity for themselves and their families," they told us. "Let's do our part to change that story."

These four examples of initiatives in the wider setting of the Presbytery are, I know, only the tip of a difference-making iceberg that is the ministry of our congregations. Still, I want to name these initiatives as significant and life-changing, and I want to give thanks for the people who are leading them and their anticipated impact.

As I've been reflecting this week on the words and message of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on this 50th anniversary of his assassination, I've also found myself reflecting on why it is we do what we do. Not what, or how, but why. Maybe I'll save those thoughts for next week, so as not to detract from what's above.

Please, this week, pray for these initiatives and the people participating. I am thankful that we, as Presbyterians, do these things we do as people of energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.