Missions & Community Justice Update

Mission Finance Team

The Mission Finance Team is tasked with oversight and distribution of funds to support mission activities locally, nationally, and internationally. This small group accepts and reviews grant applications on an ongoing monthly basis, using an established set of guidelines to evaluate the organization, the project and how it fits into their overall spending. They also determine the recipients of the twice-annual Special Offerings during worship. New volunteers are asked to commit to 12 months on the team and regular attendance is required to maintain voting member status. There is no chair person, but each team member plays a specific role in the team's function.

Team Contact:
Joy Converse *volunteer*
joy02c@gmail.com

Meetings:
After each monthly All Teams meeting, the group gathers to review and vote on grant applications.

More info
fcchurch.com/missions

Heart to Heart food pantry

Open choice food pantry serving clients in the drive-thru at FC South every Tuesday and Thursday morning.
Volunteers are needed all weekdays and times differ by activity, including but not limited to:

- Drive-Thru volunteers
- Stock & Shop
- Pop-Up Pantry
- Direct Retail Pickups
- MOFB Shop-Thru daily fresh food pickups

There are many other ways to participate or support the ministry. Material and financial donations are accepted. Visit the ministry's webpage or contact the food pantry manager for more information.

Food Pantry Manager:
Yohan Kim *staff*
ykim@fcchurch.com

Heart to Heart's website:
h2h.FCchurch.com

Tri-Village Trading Post

The thrift store is located in the basement for the annex building at FC South. The store is open 10 am to 4 pm Mon/Wed/Fri and the first Saturday of every month. The Trading Post accepts a limited variety of gently used items during store hours.. Volunteers are needed for various shifts throughout the week. The money earned by Trading Post sales is used to support First Community Missions.

Leadership Team *volunteers*:

- **Beth Hanson**
- **Cathy Hanson**
- **Chris Casavant**

Store Info:
(614) 488-6564
TradingPost@fcchurch.com
fcchurch.com/tradingpost

Refugee Ministry

Works with state agencies like C.R.I.S. to be paired with newly-arriving refugee families. The team meets the families at the airport, welcome them with meals and essential items then helps them settle into

Ministry Team Leader:
Shirley Barney *volunteer*
shirley.barney@hotmail.com

temporary housing. Team members help the families adjust to life in Central Ohio as they wait to secure permanent housing. For several months, team members provide support through ESL tutoring, assistance with appointments and paperwork, transportation, etc. New volunteers are always welcome.

The church does not regularly accept donations for Welcome Kits or furniture. We do not have the means to store or distribute those items. However, the team may be able to accept donations by appointment, or connect you directly with the family or agency.

Meetings:
Team meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm, FC North.

More info:
fcchurch.com/refugee

Mat Makers

This group collects standard plastic shopping bags* in the coat room at FC South and the Rose Wing vestibule at FC North. The bags are made into a plastic-yarn "plarn", then knitted or crocheted into sleeping mats. The mats are distributed to the unhoused for sleeping outdoors. No knitting/crochet experience necessary, and some volunteer jobs can be done from home!
*The group cannot use thin produce-like or the thicker rigid bags often used for online order pickups.

Team Contact:
Joan Talmadge *volunteer*
joantalm@aol.com

Meetings:
1:30 pm on first and third Tuesdays at FC South

More info:
fcchurch.com/missions

Monday Night Meals

Each Monday, volunteers from First Community provide a meal for the men staying at Friends of the Homeless. Small groups have been established that volunteer for the same week each month, each with their own routine, recipes, and assignments. The group members purchase items, assembled the meals and deliver them, with some staying to serve the meal. New volunteers are welcome on many of these weekly groups. Some groups bring additional donations for the men housed at FOH. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the team leader.

Team Contact:
Pat Porterfield *volunteer*
bporterf@columbus.rr.com

Weekly Leads:

1. Lisa Reynolds
2. Cat Oehl
3. Pat Porterfield
4. Ellen Crouthamel
5. Jason Barger

More info:
fcchurch.com/missions

Warm Welcome Knitters

This group knits hats, scarves and sometimes mittens for donation to those in need. Originally intended solely for incoming refugee families, the group now donates the warm weather gear to a few local agencies, and our own food pantry. If you wish to donate yarn, please contact a team member.

Team Contact:
Priscilla Mead *volunteer*
prismea@icloud.com

Meetings:
1:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays at FC South

More info:

	fcchurch.com/missions

Veterans & First Responders Ministry

This group is in its infancy, but seeks to support active and retired first responders and veterans. The team aims to use their personal skills and experiences to provide support through assistance in connecting with social service programs.	Team Leader: **Graham Webb III** Grahamwebb3@hotmail.com Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month, 4:00pm, at FC North, room 101.

Racial Equity Team

This ministry team gathers on the Last Saturday of every month from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. The meeting location rotates among a number of churches, to discuss racial/cultural community challenges and concerns.	Minster of Mission & Justice **John Girard** *staff* jgirard@fcchurch.com Meetings: Monthly during All Teams meetings

Environmental Justice Team

Team focuses on environmental care and responsibility. Programs/projects include looking toward Earth Day activities. Works with Citizens Climate lobby among other organizations.	Team Contact: **Mike Collins** *volunteer* mikecollinsae@gmail.com Meetings: Monthly during All Teams meetings

Gun Violence Prevention Team

While the team began to form several years ago, they have become increasingly active in the last two years. In close relationship with Family Missionary Baptist Church, and South Side Family Farms, group members participate in a monthly neighborhood Ministry 4 Movement marches. They gather on the first Sunday of each month, 3:00pm at Family Missionary Baptist Church, 996 Oakwood Ave. They team has participated in gun buyback programs, including one that transformed them into art, and one which turns them into gardening tools. They have also hosted panel discussions, and guest speakers on gun violence prevention.	Team Contact: **Barb Davis** (volunteer) barbbdavis98@gmail.com Meetings: First Watch Restaurant at Kingsdale for Breakfast, 8:30am More info: fcchurch.com/pride

LGBTQIA+ Ministry

The group primarily organizes First Community's participation efforts in the annual Stonewall Columbus Pride Festival and throughout pride month every June.	Team Contact: **Kristyn Anderson** (volunteer) kmanderson76@gmail.com

The group has worked on efforts to promote our open and affirming atmosphere. Recently the volunteers organized a supply drive for Kaleidoscope Youth Center. New members are always welcome.

Share & Learn Gardens

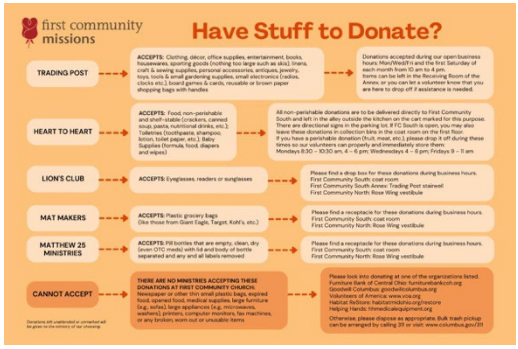
A small group of volunteers, led by 3 master gardeners, tend to the gardens on the playground at FC North. Produce grown in this garden is harvested and donated to our own Heart to Heart food pantry. The group meets most Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, and welcomes new volunteers spring through fall. No gardening experience is necessary!

Master Gardeners:
Kate Paulson (volunteers)
katepaulson45@gmail.com
Cheryl and Loren VanDeusen
clvandeu@columbus.rr.com

More info:
fcchurch.com/missions

Material Donations

Several Mission Ministry Teams collect material goods on behalf of the communities they serve. Review the chart to make sure you have all the information you need to make an informed and useful donation. Receptacles for these donations are available in the Rose Wing vestibule at FC North and in the coat room at FC South. Please leave only the items listed to be collected. If you have something to donate that is not listed, please contact the ministry team directly. Unmarked donations may be discarded.



CLICK IMAGE TO ENLARGE