

OPPC Mission News

March 2022



We are very excited to announce our Sip & Mix Spring Fundraiser on Thursday, April 28 at The Blend by Chateau Ste Michelle in downtown Kirkland. Registration will open online on March 10. Tickets will be limited, so make sure to register early!

Doors will open at 6:30 PM and we'll have wine tasting flights available, plus heavy appetizers and dessert. The event will be largely a social gathering, but we'll feature a short program and message from our Executive Director Natalie Reber. We will also feature several raffle items from local businesses and wineries with proceeds going directly to Attain Housing.

Jubilee Reach Volunteering

You're invited to help Jubilee Reach receive and process groceries and supplies donated by churches like OPPC and other organizations.

- **When:** March 15 (full), & April 5 (need 1) from 8:30 AM to about noon at Jubilee Reach.
- **Work Crew:** 8 members of OPPC
- **Work activity:** Receive bags of groceries and donated supplies like diapers, verify contents, sort through produce donated by grocery stores, organize for future distribution, any other related work that may be required.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know by registering online.

Jubilee Reach also needs donated bags of groceries. If you're able to shop and drop off bags (lists will be provided), please let us know.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE – Regarding the war in Ukraine

Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

ACT:

- Download the bulletin insert
- Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: God of mercy, justice and peace
Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked
At the sudden and breathtaking violence,
the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia.
We pray for lives caught in the grip of war,
who hear the bombs in the night,
the ominous movement of troops on the road into town
the whistle of incoming shells,
for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning.
For those who huddle in subways and basements
or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands
We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons
who must remain to fight and protect their homeland.
We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe
As their hearts and doors open to these refugees
That strained resources will become an abundance of hope

That fears and struggles with racism will yield to a generosity of profound welcome
 That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from harm
 and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors.
 That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and their lives preserved.
 May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.
 May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.
 May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.
 May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.
 And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our
 complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.
 --Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Hygiene Drive for Essentials First

Please remember our Hygiene Drive (see the OPPC This Week). We are partnering with an organization in Bellevue, on Bel-Red Rd., to provide hygiene items for families who are “hygiene insecure”. We need family-sized containers, and about anything you want to contribute; here is a request list:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shampoo with conditioner | 7. Baby Wipes |
| 2. Bar Soap (3-pack) | 8. Deodorant Men’s |
| 3. Sanitary Items for Women | 9. Deodorant Women’s |
| 4. Toothpaste | 10. Dishwashing Liquid |
| 5. Toothbrush | 11. Laundry Detergent |
| 6. Razor | |

Please bring to OPPC whenever possible.



Essentials First

Empowering Dignity Daily

Our mission

Essentials First (Formerly Kits for Peace) strengthens community-wide wellness by providing equitable access to vital personal and household hygiene products. We gift critical items including hygiene essentials, warm-weather basics, food cards, culturally appropriate non-perishable food along with resource information to the inadequately housed, refugees and those experiencing financial insecurity.

SALVATION ARMY

We have been giving money monthly to the Crossroads Salvation Army since we haven't been able to serve there as we used to do. It is possible now that we could go back to providing food, and/or actually putting the food into the clam-shell meal containers that they are using. We also might be able to load Snack Bags after church sometime. See Survey below.

ATTAIN HOUSING

We have also been giving money for rent assistance each month. We are hoping to do more hands-on projects for this community partner. We can provide activities for the children, adopt the Kensington "pod" of townhouses to maintain, or just the landscape there (which our grounds crew has done before), etc. See Survey below.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

These Little Food Pantries (LFP) are to promote food equity without shame. You've probably seen some around, as there are 4 near Crossroads. They are a box on a post with food inside. The sponsors make sure they stay full, including with ethnic food of the folks who live nearby. People can take what they need, and anyone can bring food to refill the LFP. See Survey below.

[Please click this link to give information on your interests to the Mission Team.](#)