

"I WAS HUNGRY...I WAS THIRSTY...I WAS A STRANGER...I NEEDED CLOTHES...I WAS SICK...I WAS IN PRISON...AND YOU CAME"

MATTHEW 25:35-36

ARE YOU STUCK in "Spectator Mode," watching the news of the day, wishing you could make a difference in someone's life? If you knew you could take real action, would you try? You don't have to go it alone; consider being a part of the Mathew 25 (M25) program here at RCLPC and beyond.

The PCUSA Matthew 25 vision unites all Presbyterians in our common mission, with three areas of focus:

1. Challenging our congregation and members to deepen and energize our faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples
(Congregational Vitality)
2. Fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
(Eliminating Implicit Racial Bias)
3. Acting on our beliefs to change laws, policies and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.
(Eradicating Poverty)



Blackhawk Presbytery has fully embraced the M25 initiative and begun a series of Roundtable meetings open to all. In those meetings, we spotlight each of the three major focal points of M25. Topics are discussed on a rotating basis, and you are welcome to join in any or all of the discussions, depending on your interests. They take place by Zoom the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2:00 p.m.

For more background information on these issues, there is an abundant supply of resource materials on either the PCUSA and/or Blackhawk websites. Here are just a few:

- Book suggestions: *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander; *Decolonizing Wealth*, by Edgar Villanueva; *The Post-Quarantine Church*, by Thom Rainer.
- YouTube: *Glasses of White Privilege*; *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*:
- Hunger issues: [post_summer2014.pdf \(pcusa.org\)](#)
- Harvard University Racial Bias Evaluation: [https://projectimplicit \(harvard.edu\)](https://projectimplicit.harvard.edu)

CPJ welcomes questions, feedback and suggestions for discussion topics. Which community organizations are you familiar with that would be a good partner? Tell us your stories about what you've seen or experienced where we can actively make a difference in the community.

Celebrate Our Living Waters Mission at the

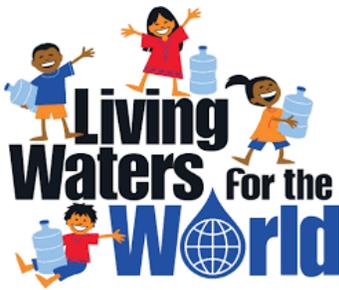
FIESTA AGUA VIVA 2021

Last year's Fiesta Agua Viva had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So, while we all missed the fun and the food, the Living Waters Team missed our opportunity to spread awareness of our efforts and to raise funds. The Fiesta has traditionally been our main source of monetary support with donations coming from our church family and other contributors far and wide.

But this year, with ingenuity and even more fervor, the Fiesta is being held in June. Of course, it will be different in order to assure everyone's health and safety. Instead of gathering in Fellowship Hall, we will be connecting with each other via the internet.

Our webpage (available either through the church's website or the following link) will make it easy for you to participate in some of the same activities as in past Fiestas as detailed below.

- <http://rclpc.org/livingWaters2021.html>



Silent auction? Absolutely! Local artisans and merchants have once again donated a wide variety of gifts, beautifully wrapped, for you to bid on over a period of several days. (You will be able to track the bidding, so you will have the option of bumping up your bid if you desire.) Many of the gift items are currently on display in Fellowship Hall. **The auction link will be ready for previewing on May 14.** Bidding will start on May 28 and end on June 4.

The Fiesta will also provide a unique way to support the work of Living Waters through an on-line giving opportunity called **"Buy-a-Part/Be-a-Part."** The website shows a catalogue of parts that go into building a water purification system, ranging from a big-ticket item such as a storage tank to more affordable, but equally essential, smaller parts. Buy a part and you become a part of the Living Waters team.

And then there is that marvelous food! This year volunteer chefs will be preparing a variety of fresh and frozen meals that you can pick up at the church. The hot dinner-to-go offering will include Guatemalan style enchiladas, empanadas and veggies, with desert. While the frozen meal options are meat lasagna, enchiladas (both vegetarian and beef) and chicken pot pie. All you need to do is submit an order ahead of time to have it prepared and ready. Food pickup will be at the church on Saturday, June 5 from 4-6 pm.

Seniors will recall Charles Osgood saying, "I'll see you on the radio." For this year's Fiesta we say, "I'll see you on the internet!"