



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALLED BY CHRIST TO JOYFULLY SERVE AND EXPAND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

April 29, 2018

Greetings FPC Community,

In 2015, Covenant Groups were started as a 3-year experiment to explore new ways of reaching out to each individual member of the church. After much prayer and consideration, six Covenant Groups were launched on April 26, 2015. With the mission to help us stay in closer relationship to God and one another, Covenant Groups were then given responsibility for supplying Ushers & Greetings and Coffee Hour folks 4 months each year -a lot of work! In keeping with Corps of Discovery, as the ministry was reviewed the Spirit has made it clear that the season of Covenant Groups is ending. Even as we remain committed to building relationships and caring for each congregant, we anticipate God's Spirit is doing a new thing in this new season. To that end, Covenant Groups will each end in August. The Ushering & Greeting / Fellowship Hour Schedule will continue through the end of September. If your group wishes to stay active, do so as a new small group by renaming yourself and invite more to join! Small groups will be "opt-in only" instead of "all in." Relational Team invites you to look over our new **Small Group Brochure for 2018 Spring & Summer** and see if there is a small group you would enjoy!

For the past three years, 19 dedicated leaders said YES to God and their congregation and SERVED as Covenant Group Leaders with ENERGY, IMAGINATION, and LOVE! They sent cards, made phone calls, learned about our lives, celebrated with us in times of joy and cared for us in times of sorrow and loss. Let us celebrate their ministry!



Come and Give Thanks!

Miriam Mauritzen, *Community Pastor*

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2018 Walton Award Winners Announced

April 27, 2018

New worshiping community for skaters in Montana and fast-growing church in Georgia each receive \$50,000

by Paul Seebeck | Presbyterian News Service

www.presbyterianmission.org

LOUISVILLE — [Serious JuJu](#), a 1001 New Worshiping Community for youth and skaters in northwest Montana and [Faith Presbyterian Church of the North Georgia Mountains](#) have been named winners of the 2018 Sam and Helen R. Walton Awards.

Given for excellence in furthering Presbyterian mission as an NWC — or former new church development

— descriptions of each recipients' ministry is listed below:

Located in an urban warehouse, JuJu provides a free indoor skating park for kids in Kalispell, Montana. Every Friday night hungry children, youth and adults are fed, while experiencing shelter, sanctuary and community. Many of JuJu's [weekly] 50 to 75 skaters suffer from childhood trauma due to chronic hunger, poverty, neglect, physical and emotional abuse, housing insecurity, family addictions and incarcerations — all compounded by community isolation.

Serious JuJu's mother congregation, First Presbyterian Church, which pays for half of JuJu pastor Miriam Mauritzen's salary, is in the midst of renewal because of its relationship with JuJu. First Presbyterian elder and local attorney Tom Esch says, "I used to prosecute skateboarders, now I serve them. JuJu has made me and my church come alive." "Serious JuJu has really ministered to these youth," adds Marsha Anson, General Presbyter of Glacier Presbytery. "In skateboarding, apparently if you are doing a trick on a ramp and it's going well that's 'good JuJu.' And if you fall, that's 'bad JuJu.' But Jesus is 'Serious JuJu!'" Serious JuJu will use their Walton Award to pay for their rent [over 5 years] or purchase a larger warehouse.



Faith Presbyterian Church started as a new church development with eight people in Blue Ridge, Georgia in 2000. Four years later they became a PC(USA) charter congregation. For seven years they held worship services in numerous rented locations, before finding a permanent rental home in 2011. Since then, Faith has doubled its membership from 59 to 118 — making them the fastest growing congregation in their presbytery. Many of Faith's members are semi or fully retired members, who have leadership roles within several nonprofit organizations. Faith's members take lunch to students in need during summer vacation and assists in the community's Snack in the Backpack program which goes to every school in their county, for children who need nutrition on the weekends. The church supports two shelters — one for battered women and children and another for girl's who have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services — and a day program for adults with severe disabilities. Faith also tends to a summer garden. The harvest is given to a local food bank... Each Walton winner was nominated by the Mission Development Resource Committee (MDRC). The [Presbyterian Mission Agency Board](#) (PMAB) endorsed those recommendations at its meeting in Cincinnati, April 25-27. The Walton awards were established in 1991 as part of a \$6-million gift from the late Sam and Helen R. Walton through the [Presbyterian Foundation](#). The gift included an endowment of \$3 million. The earned interest is to be used by winning worshiping communities and congregations for site acquisitions and capital improvements.

Tim McCallister, associate of Mission Program Grants and Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges for Presbyterian Mission, is grateful to be a part of giving out Walton Awards because he sees how they can take the pressure off of communities like Serious JuJu and Faith Presbyterian. "Money they would've used for rent or mortgage expense, or land acquisition, can be put back into their ministry," he says. "Giving the opportunity to help even more people. It's personal to me. My son got into the skater crowd — who had drug, alcohol and legal issue. It would've been great to have a community like JuJu help guide my son into making better decisions."

Since 1993 there have been 117 Walton Awards totaling \$4.775 million.