

**Camp Hill Presbyterian Church
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church**

2024 M.A.T.E. Trip



Join us for the best week of the year!
Saturday, July 20– Saturday July 27, 2024

**An intentionally intergenerational
mission trip to Farmington, Maine**

ABOUT M.A.T.E.

Mission At The Eastward was originally founded in 1953 by the Presbyterian Board of Missions as a cooperative parish to re-open small village churches which had closed and provide a Presbyterian presence in Maine. The tiny congregations shared resources and worked together in community outreach. In 2020 MATE incorporated as an independent 501©3 charitable organization, though retaining a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Presbytery of Northern New England (PCUSA), whose mission is to “love our neighbors” through volunteer home repairs and youth outreach to create lives of hope, security and dignity in central western Maine. Our group will be working with the MATE Housing Ministry (MHM.)

MAKING CONNECTIONS—WORKING TOGETHER

This year we are excited that Camp Hill and Mechanicsburg churches will be teaming up for the mission trip! One of the most satisfying aspects of participating in a MATE trip is the opportunity to make new friends whether it is a member of our team from CHPC/MPC or the Maine residents we’ll meet. It is a wonderful way to form deep bonds with those on the trip.



TRAVEL

We will depart in the *early* morning on July 20 from CHPC, 101 North 23rd Street; Camp Hill, PA. We will drive to Farmington, Maine in rental vans and private vehicles. Each vehicle determines when it will stop for rest breaks and lunch. Arrival in Farmington will be sometime between 4 and 6 PM, depending on our stops. We will eat supper in Farmington on July 20. Our return trip will depart at 6:30 AM on Sat. July 27, and most vehicles arrive back between 4:30 and 6:30 PM.

DRIVERS

Those in the group age 25 and older with clean driving records will be authorized to drive our rental vehicles. Please provide a copy of your driver’s license. We will again lease the Lend-a-Hand large vans. To be authorized as a driver on those 2 vehicles you must view a special Large Van Safety Video, and sign a form attesting that you have watched it (already on file for those of you who have done so previously.) We will also have some rented minivans from RJ Cackovic and the MPC van.



LODGING & MEALS

LUXURIOUS BY MISSION TRIP STANDARDS—Our team will stay in a dormitory at the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). Meals will be held at a local church hall, at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall, a one block walk from the dorm. The cooks will prepare breakfast and dinner each day, and you will pack your lunch from items provided to eat with your work crew each day (often by the local lake or river.)

OUR WORK

Our work will involve repairing homes for those in need in western Maine, most of whom are low income. Work might include installing insulation, windows, roof replacement, adding ramps, drywall, yard work, etc. You do not need to be skilled to participate—we have a number of experienced leaders that are happy to train you, and there is something to do for every skill, ability, and comfort level. YOU are needed!

FAITH & WORSHIP

The reason for this mission trip is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ. In all that we do and say, we strive to radiate the love of Jesus Christ. On Sunday we will worship with the congregation at Fairbanks Union Church (PCUSA). Each day there will be a time of devotions to help us focus on what God is doing with and through us during our week. Each evening members are encouraged to share stories of their day during what has come to be known as “True Confessions.” We will also share in the Lord’s Supper at the end of the week.



RECREATION

We will have opportunities to enjoy the beauty of western Maine. On Sunday we will have a day of worship and rest with free time to visit the shops of Farmington, and a swimming trip to the Sandy River. Sunday supper will be a cookout. Crews often take their lunch by a local lake or river and may make time for a swim at lunchtime. Each evening after devotions there will be an optional recreation activity such as 9 Square, miniature golf, a trip to the Wire Bridge, moose “hunting” expedition, and of course nightly trips to Gifford’s for the world’s best ice cream! Feel free to bring your favorite board game or playing cards.

TEAM MEETING & ORIENTATION

All those who register to go on the MATE trip are expected to attend a team meeting & orientation which is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, June 2, 2024**. Time & location are to be determined (you will be notified via email.) A packet with full details, including packing lists, for the trip will be distributed at this meeting.

CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCES

Trip participants must comply with the 2015 Pennsylvania law requiring child abuse clearances be on file for all adults who volunteer with youth. You may already have these clearances if you volunteer with scouts, sports, schools, etc. Clearances, which are good for 5 years, should be submitted to Andrea Ebeling in the CHPC church office. Please contact Andrea in the church office to confirm if your clearances are on file or if you need instructions on obtaining clearances. Andrea may be contacted at aebeling@thechpc.com or 717-737-0488. If you are an MPC member with clearances on file at MPC, please have the church office provide copies to CHPC.



THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR FLEXIBILITY

Things can and almost always do change as we prepare for our mission week. You will be emailed as new information arises or if parts of our plans change. Remember: “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.”

FUNDRAISERS

The cost of the MATE trip is well in excess of the registration fees that our participants pay. The balance of the trip costs is funded by MATE Sponsors & Shareholders and the Mission Outreach Ministry. Please consider becoming a MATE sponsor and ask your family and friends to also become sponsors. For more information on MATE sponsorships, please contact Nancy Flint at nflint.home@gmail.com.

FEES:

The registration fee is \$275.00, or \$250.00 for additional members of the same immediate family. Make all checks payable to CHPC and mark MATE registration on the memo line. The James P. Crouse Memorial MATE Scholarship Fund has been established to offer full or partial coverage of the registration fees for volunteers with financial need. Payment plans are also available. Please contact Nancy Flint for more information on scholarship or payment plans.

Your registration fee covers your travel, meals (except for lunch on 7/20/2024), lodging, and a team T-shirt. We also pay team fees to MATE which help underwrite the costs of building materials and the administration of MATE Housing Ministry. Expenses not covered by the fee: souvenirs, extra treats (i.e. ice cream, sodas), items on the packing list that you might not already own.

All registrants will receive an information packet and packing list at the group meeting (June 2, 2024, time & location TBD.)

To register return your completed registration form & the logistics sheet:

To the MATE mailbox across the hall from the church office

(CHPC—101 North 23rd Street; Camp Hill, PA 17011)

OR mail to Nancy Flint—4187 Nantucket Drive; Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

OR Scan and email to nflint.home@gmail.com

You may send your check along with your registration form, however please be aware that registration fees will be held until June 2 and they will all be turned in for deposit together.

Please include a photo copy of your driver's license if you are age 25 or older.

Please submit your child abuse clearances to the church office if you are 18 or older if they are not already on file.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE BY APRIL 30, 2024

