Attendees: Janie Ballurio, Fionda Brock, Cary Dahl, Debbie Metz, Karen Peterson, Ron Ramsey, Peggy Roberson, Brandan Sommerfield, Robyn Sommerfield, Susan Venable, Kathleen Wilkers, Sarah Wolf

Devotions by Cary Dahl

1. Robyn Sommerfield to introduce our Guest Speaker

Susan Artis Venable, Guest Speaker, Artis Transitions Inc. (“ATI”) – helping families in the community find long term solutions to systemic problems – and specifically, how they address children in poverty; joined by Fionda Brock, ATI Board Member and consultant

* ATI was founded in 2016 to serve families with children and the elderly – addressing the generational cycle of poverty that prevents people form moving forward – working to get people off this wheel/cycle
* MISSION – supporting families in their transformation as they move from a place of crisis/survival to stability/self-sufficiency
* Start with the head of the house and the direction of their life in the hope that will help create a model for the children to follow
* BACKGROUND: Susan is the youngest of seven children. Her father helped residents in Washington, D.C. for those in rent controlled housing, helping them know their rights so they would not be evicted illegally; Susan’s father worked with Washington, D.C. Head Start and Food Pantries
* STARTS with listening to the stories of the family of those in need to find out what their situation is; current Clientele have diverse needs regarding everything from food security, education, employment, counseling, mental illness, self value, and health
* Currently there are 8 children in the program
* Currently have a new Board and are in transition to become a larger organization in conjunction with the increased need
* Current volunteer opportunities for our Task Force – educational volunteers to help with enrichment opportunities (music, singing, drama, art, develop critical thinking); food security – currently during COVID-19, the ATI clients’ food needs are being met with the programs that are available; explore alternative educational opportunities such as private school or other educational programs
* Discussed the ALICE Report – recommended reading – gives an idea of the poverty levels and conditions in our geographic area
* Looking towards possibly qualifying for CAPSAW in the future
* The impact of COVID for the ability for ATI to help families has been extreme – not allowing for one-on-one contact or personal conversations – very limited contact
* Sending Website information and Friday Fundraiser Information at the JMU Arboretum

1. CURRENT PROGRAMS
2. Boys and Girls Club

* Nextrex Program – Facilities will be contacted regarding whether we can put a receptacle at Covenant – we will also seek sign ups to help get bags to Food Lion – about 60 pounds so far have been collected – Kathy Henderson has a collection tub in her office
* Update on rebuild in Waynesboro, satellite locations, and serving area youth
  + A YD Committee meeting is taking place Monday if anyone is interested in attending
  + The Bethany Lutheran Church in Waynesboro is being used/rented to serve area youth (for one year) while the Waynesboro facility is being reconstructed (slated for January 2021)
  + Programming and serving youth has been very organic based on CDC regulations constantly being changed and the needs of the community shifting
  + A need for technology so kids can do their homework is being discussed at the Club
* Possible Volunteer Opportunities during the school year
  + The Boys and Girls Club may need tutors in the future and we have asked the Club to contact us once they figure out what that will look like

1. Shelburne Project

* Meal Deliveries
* Transitioning to school supplies needed as they may not be able to do the stuff the bus program (backpacks, binders, etc.) – school starts on August 18th

1. Face Masks for Our Community

* Waynesboro First Presbyterian Food Pantry is covered
* Robyn has been donating masks to Augusta County schools – Ron Ramsey will ask if Staunton City school teachers need masks
* Kathy Henderson is still the contact person for masks
* Potential new opportunity with Masks 4 Farmworkers – Robyn is working with an advocacy group in Florida to get masks to farmers

1. COVENANT Webpage – send updated articles and information to Linda Foster:
2. <https://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/serve/children-in-poverty-task-force/>

* A resource for the ALICE Report – www.unitedwaynsv.org/alice

1. Other Opportunities

* Peggy asks for us to prayerfully consider volunteer opportunities with another church – volunteerism inspired by the book club/study Waking Up White

Closing Prayer – Kathleen Wilkers