

In an April 13 Zoom call, the Partner Church Circle (PCC) had a conversation with 9 of the students receiving funds donated by UUCF members to the PCC's Scholarship Program and with Rev. Barni.

Conversation with Students:

The students introduced themselves and let us know what they were studying, what they planned to do, and any outside interests. They each said how much the financial aid had helped.

Anna Marie is studying mechanics in order to strengthen the wheel and tire repair business she and her husband own. (Barni pointed out, later, that it is very unusual in Romania for adults to return to school.

Barbi is an 11th grade student in the social science curriculum. She hopes to become a nurse or doctor. (Barni explained that in Romania, students are assigned to a public high school curriculum based on standardized test scores. Their high school curriculum does not limit their field of study at a university. Private high schools like the Unitarian high school in Kolozsvár do not assign a student to a curriculum.) Besides school, Barbi enjoys music and her pets.

David is studying accounting and wants to start a business when he graduates. In free time, he likes to cook and go to the gym.

Edna is a third-year nursing student and is working in an ER. Her sister, Helen, is in 11th grade and plans to teach kindergarten after obtaining an education degree.

Erika, like Anna Marie, has gone back to school to study mechanics, in order to fix the machines in her family's firm that make personal protective gear which is exported to Italy.

Hunur is a 9th grader with an interest in geography and history. In his free time he likes to work out at the gym.

Kristof is back at a regular high school after attending the special school in Csiksereda, Romania that trains soccer players. He anticipates a career as an equipment operator with soccer as an avocation.

Krisztina is in the second to the last year of dental school. She is currently in a special program in the university in Pecs, Hungary, which she is enjoying greatly. Krisztina has been a scholarship recipient for several years.

Conversation with Barni

The tendon in Ilona's arm has healed and is no longer hurting her. Their daughters are engaged in schoolwork and just returned from a series of field trips.

Locally, after an unusually dry winter, there was snow and lows of 23 degrees Fahrenheit in Szentgerice. There has been damage to some fruit trees, but the plum and peach trees and grape vines were not harmed.

The Romanian government is trying to clawback funds granted to small Transylvanian farmers including Barni. They have hired a lawyer to fight this effort.

Nationally, there is growing tension between the Romanian majority and Hungarian minority. An nextreme Romanian nationalist is rising in the polls for next month's presidential election. Thus far, there has not been violence.