



# FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
March 29, 2020

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## TODAY

**Today, during the coronavirus alert, we are Live Streaming worship at 10:30 a.m. so stay home and stay healthy and join us online. Share the Peace, Spread the Word, not the virus.**

**ON-LINE WORSHIP IS A NEW EXPERIENCE.** Here's a few ideas about how to make it more meaningful. To enhance the audio, use headphones, earbuds or a small Bluetooth speaker. Gather some items for a home worship space. It might be your coffee table or kitchen table or desk – wherever you are sitting to watch/participate in the Live Stream. Include a candle and matchstick so you can light the candle in your home when Pastor Sue lights the candle in the Sanctuary. You could place some purple cloth – for Lent – under the candle. A copy of the bulletin is a good idea – either a hard copy that you print or a soft copy on another device – so you can refer to it and join in the liturgy while you watch. Are the daffodils blooming in your garden? Put one or two in a bud vase for your home worship space. Mark the text beforehand in a Bible, so you can follow the reading (the text will also be printed in the online bulletin.) Other ideas? Take a photo of your home worship space and send it to [sharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sharris@firstpreshc.org).

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** Thanks to the Live Stream Worship Team.  
*Tech Crew:* Barry, Jonathan

**WE WELCOME Frank Rittermann as our guest musician this morning.** Thanks to Frank for being part of the Live Stream Worship Team.

**FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the Glory of God by Jan in memory of her parents Betty and Blair.

**ALL IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES, STUDY GROUPS, MEETINGS AND SERVICES ARE CANCELLED THROUGH April 30, 2020.** Some groups will meet via ZOOM or other online apps. The Church Staff will be in the church office, with limited hours, but the building will be locked. So call us if you need us, we're here for you. We have a bunch of people who will be happy to bring you groceries and medicines. Keep washing your hands! Stay healthy!

**FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT FOR KIDS AND THEIR GROWN-UP FRIENDS.**

*Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.* join Pastor Sue as she gets everything ready for Sunday worship. She'll have stuff for everyone to do to get ready – maybe some art, maybe learn or practice a song, maybe a home scavenger hunt. Come and see.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE is currently CLOSED,** and the church staff are working from home. There are some days when different staff members will be in the office. Please contact the church staff via email, listed on the back of First Day!

**APRIL TIDINGS** will be sent via email only this month and will also be posted on the church's website. If you usually receive Tidings in the mail and you have an email address please send your email address to our Church Administrator, at [fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org](mailto:fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org). You don't want to miss all the news that will be shared. Thanks!

## GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29, 2020

**Please pray for:** *Justin*, Burta, Dave, Phil, Dylan, Mil, Rose, Carol, Betty, Doris, Shirley, Shirley, Beth; for everyone living in Charlestown, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House.

**Non-Resident Members:** Frank & Betty, Vivian, Russ & Barb, Virginia

**Friends & Family:** *Craig & Darlene's son Evan*; Andrew, Rosemary, Peter, Aaron, Tim, Emily, David, *Mary*

**Recovering from Surgery:** Donna, Emma, Dan

**Bereaved:** Jeff & Natalie; Jimmy's Family; Marvin, Alice

**Care Center:** Marvin, Reva, Jim

**Seminarians:** Blake, Emma

**PCUSA Mission Coworkers:** Jeff & Christi Boyd in Congo, [www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd](http://www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd); Jed & Jenny Koball in Peru, [www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball](http://www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball)

**Members and friends** who are staying home during the Corona Virus outbreak.

*Please contact the church office, 410-730-3545 or one of the Pastors:*

*Morton Harris, 443-824-3768 or Sue Lowcock Harris, 443-824-4305*

*with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share.*



### PEOPLE ON THE WAY

**Maya Angelou** (April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis. An American author, poet, singer, historian, dancer, stage and screen producer and director, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her life up to the age of 17 and brought her international recognition and acclaim. She made a deliberate attempt to challenge the common structure of the autobiography by critiquing, changing and expanding the genre. Her books center on themes such as racism, identity, family and travel. She was an active person of faith, and was an active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, and Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. She said, *"I found that I knew not only that there was God but that I was a child of God, when I understood that, when I comprehended that, more than that, when I internalized that, ingested that, I became courageous."*

**We also remember:** March is Women's History Month! Who are the women who inspire your faith? Who are the women who brought you to faith?

**THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE** focuses the prayers of Christians week by week, so that over the year all the countries of the world are prayed for.

This week we pray for *The Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia*

*We thank God for:*

- Those pursuing peace and reconciliation between the different ethnic and religious groups.

*We pray for:*

- A continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted.
- Religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation.

For more information about the Prayer Cycle,  
visit the website of the World Council of Churches: [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

## OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2020

*We pray for the mission of our congregation.*

**La Union Maya Quiche Boca Costa Presbytery:** *Iglesia Horeb in the village of Chocola.*

**Bridges to Housing Stability** is one of our foundational local mission partners. Bridges envisions a day when homelessness is eradicated in Howard County. Their mission is to provide a path of self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County. Their three programs are: Bridges Housing Stability Program which works with people who are near eviction or are homeless; Bridges Alliance Program which works with low income individuals and families who work in Howard County; and the Housing Connections Program which works with private landlords to provide affordable housing.

## WORSHIP, ART AND MUSIC NEWS



### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir** rehearsals are cancelled until further notice. Questions? Contact the church office

## ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED** until further notice.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM** – with Pastor Sue

9:30 – 11:00 a.m., During Lent we are studying *The Servant Songs of Isaiah*

*Please don't come to the church!* Enjoy Bible Study in the comfort of your home.

Please email the church office, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) or Sue, [sharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sharris@firstpreshc.org) if you would like to receive a ZOOM link. We'll send the link out on Tuesday. Everyone welcome!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is CANCELLED until further notice.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** is CANCELLED

The Confirmation Dinner and meeting with Session on Thursday, March 26 and Confirmation Sunday, March 29 will be rescheduled after the virus alert has passed.

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

**MID-HIGHS, SENIOR HIGHS AND PARENTS** –

Let's stay connected through *GroupMe* and *Remind* text messages.

Email Virginia Callegary, [vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org) if you would like to be added to the text message lists.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

**COVID-19 TEAM** – Interested in assisting people with getting groceries, medicines, etc. as needed? Contact Pastor Sue, [sharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sharris@firstpreshc.org)

**JUST ONE CAN...PLUS!** – March - Breakfast

Let's help the hungry start the morning right with a good breakfast. Our special request for March is donations of cereal (including instant oatmeal), which is the most requested food item month after month in food pantries. There is a limit of

one visit per family per month to the Howard County Food Bank, where the quantities given out must be strictly rationed to meet demand.

Keep collecting! **If you need to bring items to the church please place your items in the storage box by the back entrance (near the mail box),** otherwise save it up for the next couple weeks.

Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

## HOLY WEEK

**NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY!** You can stop by the church and pick up palms for your Living Room Palm Parade. We'll place the palms in buckets at the triple door entrance on Saturday afternoon between noon and 3:00 p.m. Drive by and pick up a few palms. Palm Sunday is the first Sunday of the month which is our Communion Sunday. **We will be sharing communion** via our Live Stream Worship. Please read "a word" below so you can prepare.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING** will be collected next Sunday, April 5. Go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/building-gods-household/> for more information. Include your gift with your regular offering and designate it for OGHS.

**HOLY WEEK BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY.** We'll worship together via Facebook Live and You Tube, just as we do on Sunday mornings.

- Maundy Thursday Worship, April 9 with **Communion** at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship, April 10 at NOON

**A WORD ABOUT SHARING COMMUNION** on Palm Sunday morning and Maundy Thursday evening. In order to do this, you will need to have a few things in your home: wine or grape juice, and bread. The bread can be any kind – a slice of sandwich bread, a roll, tortilla, naan – it can be gluten free or with gluten. You will want a napkin or a plate for the bread, and something to hold the wine or juice – a wine glass, a juice glass, even a coffee mug would be fine. Please use bread and wine/juice.

- Place your bread and wine on a table or stand in the middle of the room where you worship, so your worship is around the table – just like it is when we gather in the Sanctuary.
- When it is time to break the bread, choose someone to lift the bread with Pastor Morton and break it, and the lift the cup with Pastor Sue. When we share the bread, you can pass it and tear a small piece of the common loaf/slice. When we share the wine/juice you can share by common cup (everyone takes a sip from the same cup) or by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine or juice.) When all have shared, place everything back on the table for the rest of the service.

*Wherever two or three are gathered – there Christ is in the midst of us.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**IT'S A NEW WORLD!** Virginia, Morton and Sue will be having ZOOM office hours while we're practicing social distancing. Links will be posted on the Website and Facebook or click here [www.firstpreshc.org/online-office-hours](http://www.firstpreshc.org/online-office-hours). Stop in and say hi! Bring a cup of coffee. **ZOOM OFFICE HOURS for staff:**

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Virginia

Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Sue

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Morton

**BRICK ORDERS!** Has ordering a brick to be placed in the front pathway been on your to-do list? Now's your chance to place an order. Contact the office for an order form. Contact: the church office.

#### **CHURCH EVENTS CANCELLED:**

*The 5K Family Run for Coffee, New Member Orientation, The Lunch Bunch*  
Watch Tidings, First Day, Friday Email, and the church website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org) for new dates and more information concerning the church's activities.

**PER CAPITA FOR 2020 is \$36.00.** The "Per Capita" is each church member's share of the expenses of the larger church – the Presbytery, the Synod and General Assembly of the PCUSA. Our congregation is required to pay this amount for each member of the church. *Have you paid your per capita? Thank you to those 83 people who have paid already!*

#### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING TO THE CHURCH**

Since we can't pass the offering plate as usual, many people have asked about other ways to make their contributions and pledges. Here are some ways we can continue to give:

1. **PayPal** – You could contribute immediately online through PayPal. This works even if you do not have a PayPal account. There is a button on the church website. When you click the button, it will take you to a page that clearly says "First Presbyterian Church of Howard County: General Giving."
2. **Automatic payments through your regular bank account** -- if your bank provides an automatic payment service, you could set it up to send a contribution to the church as a payment.
3. **U. S. Mail** – This way still works! You could mail checks to First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD 21045. Checks are delivered to a strong, locked mailbox on the church premises.
4. **Automatic bank drafts by completing the church's Electronic Giving Form** – you could fill out and return an Electronic Giving Form (available on the church website). Mail or bring the completed form to the church office. This form gives permission for a bank draft on the account you specify, in the amount and frequency that you specify.
5. **Stop and phone** – If you prefer to bring your contribution by the church in person, you can call the church office when you arrive. If anyone is in, we'll come down and meet you at the door.
6. **Letter Drop** – If no one is in the office, you can drop a message or envelope in the Letter Drop, a mail slot in the bell-tower door (near the picnic tables in front). This method is only in effect during the virus emergency, because there are only a handful of people who come inside.

We are exploring other ways of contributing that will be safe, easy and convenient. Those will be included on this list as they become operational. Thank you for all the ways you support the Church!

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Sunday Morning Schedule 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed

THE CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING ARE CLOSED  
CHURCH STAFF CAN BE REACHED VIA EMAIL, SEE LISTING BELOW.

ZOOM LINKS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE: [WWW.FIRSTPRESHC.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTPRESHC.ORG)

### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed

### Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via ZOOM

6:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Virginia Callegary

### Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study via ZOOM

2:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Pastor Sue Lowcock Harris

6:00 p.m. Senior Highs via ZOOM

### Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

1:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Pastor Morton Harris

3:00 p.m. Facebook Live Worship Prep

### Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

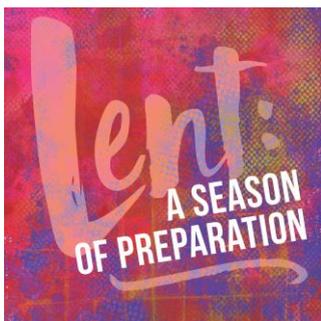
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRIDE DAY – WEAR YOUR T-SHIRT

### Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING

10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed



## Staff Contact Information

Morton Harris, Co-Pastor: [mharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:mharris@firstpreshc.org)

Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor: [sharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sharris@firstpreshc.org)

Virginia Callegary, Christian Educator: [vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)

Caroline Smith, Church Administrator: [fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org](mailto:fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org)

Pat Travers, Bookkeeper: [bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org)

Woody Collins, Church Sexton: [sexton@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sexton@firstpreshc.org)

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more events throughout the week at First Presbyterian Church, please check the calendar on our website at [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org), the current issue of Tidings, or call the church office 410-730-3545.

A Weekly Email is sent every Friday, if you would like to receive it please contact the church office.

To submit news or events for the weekly bulletin **First Day!** please email to: [fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org](mailto:fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org) by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. To submit articles for Tidings, our monthly newsletter, please send articles by email to: [fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org](mailto:fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org) by **Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the May 2020 Issue #5.**