



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
February 2, 2025

TODAY

8:30 a.m. EARLY SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

10:30 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP (in-person and livestream)

Our in-person and livestream congregations share worship together. This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet. If worshipping in-person, you may appear in our livestream. If joining from home, the link for worship will open around 10:20 a.m. You can find this week's worship materials on the website:

www.firstpreshc.org

CHILDREN BEGIN WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY. After the children's prayer, children ages 4-7 may go to Godly Play with Ms. Kathy Moore. Older children, grades 2-5, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

Worship bags for children are available in the Upper Commons.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Paul & Joanie "Happy Birthday to our big sister Carol".

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Emmanuel

Ushers & Greeters: Margot

Tech Crew: Matthew, Francois, Tracy

We receive these new members today with joy: Trae, Kalima, Jayne, Joyce, Johanna. Please welcome them to our church family!

CHURCH OFFICE

WHERE IS OUR CHURCH STAFF? This week DCE Virginia Callegary is attending the Annual Event of the Association of Partners in Christian Education. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, February 5.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

TODAY The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County to be held in-person in the sanctuary on **Sunday, February 2, 2025** immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to hear the report of the Session and its Ministry Areas, to receive the Session's budget plan, and to transact any other business properly coming before the Congregation.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are available **TODAY Sunday, February 2, 2025** in the Upper Commons.

An electronic copy of the Annual Report was included in the Weekly Email on Friday.

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Please pray for: Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Jim, Dename and Family, Chuck, Karin, Gaunt & Bush Family, Dot, Janet

And also for: everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House.

Non-Resident Members: Frank and Betty, Barb

Friends & Family: Matt, Susan, Judy, Gudeta, Anne & Nate and family, Evelyn, Bruce, Bart, Joe, The Beisler Family, Roy, Pastor Juan, Adolfo, Sue

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Nana, Mr. N., Jim

Bereaved: Dave, Bob; Joe & Marla and family, Natalie and Jeff, Wayne and Sharon, McKissick Family, Hilda and family, Jan and family, Lois, Agnes & Family, Blondell, Wade & Monta, Amanda, Margaret, Catherine and family, Anita and family, Kathy & family, Doyle & family

PCUSA Mission Coworkers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo, www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd; Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru, www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball; Leslie Vogel in Guatemala, www.PCUSA.org/leslie-vogel

Please contact Pastor Ken Page, kpage@firstpreshc.org or 602-799-7643 with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share or in case of an emergency or to arrange homebound Communion. Friends & Family names are listed for 8 weeks unless requested otherwise.



With Joy and Celebration

Zachary and Savannah on the birth of their daughter, Lillian, on January 25th. Brett and Janet are the proud grandparents.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of January 28, 2025	\$52,604.66
Actual Expenses as of January 28, 2025	<u>52,384.27</u>
Total	\$220.39

It takes an average of \$2,277.72 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church.
The total surplus/deficit shown above is days ahead/(behind).

PER CAPITA FOR 2025 - The amount is \$42.00

For more info go to <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/per-capita/>

Have you paid your per capita?! Thank you to those 21 people who have paid it!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 5th -8th graders are invited to our next youth group which is on Wednesday, February 12 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We'll provide dinner.
Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 2025, 9:00 am until Noon

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Three year-olds through current fourth graders are invited to attend. The cost is \$20/child (max \$50/family) or free if a parent/guardian or grandparent is volunteering during the week. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

CURRENT EVENTS FACILITATORS NEEDED

Christian Education is looking for a few leaders to facilitate our monthly Current Events – Presbyterian Style discussions which take place during the Sunday school hour from 9:30-10:25 am on the last Sunday of the month. The choice of topic is up to the facilitator in consultation with the Christian Education Ministry Area. If you are interested, please contact DCE Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: February 9 & 23, and March 9, 16, & 30. Here's the link to signup:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/flowers2025>

The flowers cost \$35. Please send a check to the church office or via PayPal.
Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

We celebrate music from many different cultures across the globe, but in February we focus on music by Black composers and featuring local Black musicians. On February 2nd, the choir will be singing Ubi Caritas by Texas-based composer Victor C. Johnson. On February 9th, Simone Brown, soprano, will be returning to FPCHC as the featured soloist in William Henry Smith's famous arrangement of Ride the Chariot. The following Sunday, February 16, choir favourite Dr. Edryn Coleman from Oakland Mills High School will be joining us to conduct his own composition, Lift Ev'ry Voice. The final Sunday in February will see our Bell Choir playing a gorgeous arrangement of My Lord, What a Morning. Every service will also feature hymns, songs, solos and arrangements by Black Composers and the African-American Heritage Hymnal.

DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

If you'd like to bring snacks one Sunday, please check the SignUpGenius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF4DACAF2BA0FCC52-51327460-coffee>



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP HOURS on Sundays

following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service in Lyle Buck Hall

- * *Sunday, February 2, 2025* – hosted by Nancy and Emma
- * *Sunday, February 9, 2025* – hosted by Marie & Ron – Bingo!
- * *Sunday, February 16, 2025* – Church Anniversary with celebratory cake!
- * *Sunday, February 23, 2025* – hosted by Deacons

We thank all who have volunteered!

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION HOUR, 9:30-10:25 a.m.

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH facilitated by Doyle – every Sunday – **Parlor**

THE RIGHTEOUS MIND – A BOOK STUDY taught by Rev. Ken Page

TODAY Sunday, February 2 in Branch Hall

We will be engaging in a book study on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt. Classes based on the book will be interspersed with classes about current events using our learnings. You will need to purchase the book. The other dates for the book study are February 2 & 9 and March 2 & 9 (a total of 6 weeks).

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

Morning – *Who Is Jesus in John’s Gospel?* – led by Rev. Rosemary and Rev. David – January 8 – February 26 – 9:30-11am – Parlor

The Fourth Gospel is full of beautiful imagery, memorable texts (like John 3.16) and long speeches by Jesus.

Evening – *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman – with Andrea – Jan 8 – Feb 12, 7-8:30pm – Zoom

A study of Jesus as the One who walks with people in the pain of oppression and presents the example of a life of love as empowering and preeminent.

Register in advance for the Zoom link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDjiqHjXW>

DEACONS NEWS

MITTEN TREE *Sponsored by The Deacons through February 2nd, 2025*

The Deacons are collecting new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for all ages.

Decorate the Mitten Tree in the Lower Commons with your new items through Sunday, February 2nd.

Thank you from the Deacons!

Questions? Contact Christine

JUST ONE CAN! February – Fight Against Cold

This month Deacons salute our church’s commitment to the Cold Weather Shelter. Cold weather is difficult enough without a roof over your head, much less warm food. Thousands of people are going hungry in our area despite the hard work of the Howard County Food Bank and other food pantries. Please demonstrate your support of their tireless efforts by donating hearty, nutritious and filling foods that benefit the homeless, the hungry and the struggling. Suggestions are: beans – dried or canned, canned meat/tuna/chicken, canned soups, stews, pasta, oatmeal



THE KIPTON PROJECT

UPDATE!!! We have collected 307 lbs. of soft plastics. Please Help FPCHC collect plastic bags, film, and other items towards our 1,000 pound goal. Trex will award the church with a bench made from recycled plastics. Please check the list of acceptable plastics below before donating: <https://nextrex.com/view/educate>. Please drop your items in Lower Commons. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Williams or Woody Collins

MISSION

COLD WEATHER SHELTER – First Pres’ turn supporting the Howard County Cold Weather Shelter (our 20th year!) is coming up the week of February 10th – 16th. It will be at the Grassroots Emergency Shelter at 6700 Freetown Road, and we will be providing meals for the shelter’s 50 long-term residents in addition to the 20 Cold Weather Shelter residents. To see what volunteer opportunities are available and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2025CWS>, the QR code, go the CWS page on the church website (<https://www.firstpreshc.org/post/cold-weather-shelter-feb-10-16-2025>); or contact Margot, Amy, or Ellen.



JOIN BRIDGES TO HOUSING STABILITY in celebration of the housing heroes in Howard County. On February 17, Heroes for Housing will be held at 18th & 21st in Columbia for an evening of food, cocktails, a silent auction, and music to benefit Bridges to Housing Stability. We hope to see you there. Questions? Contact Pat Curran (pcurran613@gmail.com) See link for tickets. [2025 Heroes for Housing - Bridges to Housing Stability](#)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION TRIP! The delegation that traveled to Guatemala to install stoves has returned home safely, bringing greetings and appreciation from our partner presbytery's leadership and the 36 recipients of the stoves. Bad weather across the southern USA resulted in a change of plans for the return trip, but everything worked out well. A program will be scheduled during fellowship hour sometime in the next few months to share photos and stories about the trip, but in the meantime, please ask the delegates about their experiences. Thanks to all who support this mission.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10 (NRSV)

PC(USA) has asked members to contact their Members of Congress to protest the foreign aid freeze: “From access to healthcare to basic needs like food and water, U.S. foreign aid provides lifelines for people around the world. By cutting off this support, countless lives are being thrown into uncertainty—and peace builders are being forced to halt their critical work.” You can also amend the standard message to include other opinions.

<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/120644/Respond>

PC(USA) has also issued a statement in support of Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde’s courageous stand in support of God’s justice, mercy and love. Please consider writing a message of support to Bishop Budde: Episcopal Church House, Mount St. Alban, Washington, DC 20016, or mebudde@edow.org.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusa-advocacy-committee-issues-statement-supporting-bishop-budde>

PNC

Ministry Discernment Profile Available Online Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) recently had a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) approved by the Session and by the Presbytery. The MDP summarizes who we are as a church, including demographics, our vision and mission as a loving community of God, and a job description for our next pastor. The MDP is posted on the News & Updates section of our website.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Info

The nursery is still closed. Marla will be available for child care if needed.

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/firstpreshc

YOUTUBE <http://www.youtube.com/c/firstpreshc>

Links can also be found on the Website www.firstpreshc.org

The Church Office is Open Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(The outside doors may be locked, please call upon arrival for entry.)

MITTEN TREE COLLECTION – JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sunday, February 2nd

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person only
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play
- 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour immediately following the Annual
Meeting of the Congregation
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

Monday, February 3rd

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN MON-FRI– 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 4th

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Pastor-Parish-Personnel Meeting

Wednesday, February 5th

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Study Group
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Zoom Study
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsals

Thursday, February 6th

- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 7th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, February 8th

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

- 9:45 a.m. Lydia Circle

Sunday, February 9th

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person only
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

Check your inbox for the weekly issues of Tidings by Ministry Area.

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 announcements to:*

churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

*To submit articles for Tidings, the church's newsletter sent out weekly by Ministry Area, please send articles by email to: churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by **Thursday, February 13, 2024 for March 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*