



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
April 21, 2024

TODAY

QUIET BEGINNINGS...

As we enter the sanctuary each week to gather for worship, we enter in a spirit of prayer and quiet preparation. Remember that your neighbor may be hoping for a quiet moment to center themselves, listen to the prelude, and prepare for worship. Take a breath – leave the busy, noisy, hustle-bustle world at the sanctuary doors and listen - God is ready for you!

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, you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

FOR OUR 10:30 a.m. ONLINE CONGREGATION

The link for worship will open around 10:20 a.m. This Sunday, April 21, is the Fourth Sunday of Easter and Earth Sunday. The liturgical color is **white**. Pick up a copy of the bulletin so you can join in the liturgy at home. You can find this week's materials on the website: www.firstpreshc.org or in the Friday email.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: All worship begins in the sanctuary.

At 10:30 a.m.: After the Children's Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play. Parents can pick up their children following worship in rooms 110 & 113.

Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to The Worship Bridge. They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.

WORSHIP BAGS: Worship bags are available to enhance the worship experience for children. Please return everything (except the bulletins) to the bags and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.



FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Alice in celebration of her birthday; and by Louisa in loving memory of Jim Leslie.

THE RED ROSE in the pulpit today is in celebration of the birth of Gavin Francis, son of Aja and Jacob.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: Alice (10:30)

Ushers & Greeters: Nancy, Mispa (10:30)

Tech Crew: Eric, Laura, Barry, Jonathan, Margot

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for **TODAY Sunday morning, April 21, 2024**, at the close of the 10:30 a.m. service. The meeting is in-person. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Congregational Nominating Committee, and to elect Elders, Deacons and other church officers.

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024

Please pray for: Lea, Dave and Jane, Dylan, Bob, Ken, Stacy, Bob and Sarah Jo, Bob and Carol, Maria, Jim, Ann and Family, Dename and Family, Dan

And also for: everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House; the people of Ukraine.

Non-Resident Members: Frank and Betty, Barb

Friends & Family: John & Judy, Sumner, Terry, Kathy, Peg, Al, *Dave*, Barbara, Jane, Aaron, Eyler, Rita, Matt

Births: *Gavin Francis, son of Aja and Jacob.*

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Paul, Barbara, Lois, Beth

Recovering from Surgery: Janet; Margaret, Ann

Bereaved: Bob; Ron and MJ, Angela and Trey and Family, Ellen and Doyle and family; Eric and Lisa and 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, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org or 410-730-3545 with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share or in case of an emergency. Friends & Family names are listed for 8 weeks unless requested otherwise.



For more events throughout the week at First Presbyterian Church, please check our website at www.firstpreshc.org for the weekly issue of First Day. Also, 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, May 16, 2024 for June 2024 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YOUR TURN

With the Mission Study Team

Come give us input on our church, so the Mission Study can include your perspective!

Sunday, April 28

Sunday, May 19

In Lyle Buck Hall after church. 30 minutes.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC NEWS

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Handbell rehearsal: *Wednesday, April 24, 2024* at 7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearsal: *Thursday, April 25, 2024* at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Margaret McGillivray,
churchoffice@firstpreshc.org for more details!

GARDEN FLOWERS THIS SUMMER

June 2, July 14 and August 11

Gardens are showing God's glory!

You are invited to bring flowers from your own garden to worship on Sunday!

Bring your flowers, in a vase of your own choice, to the sanctuary 15 minutes before the service you plan to attend.

If you can donate your flowers to the Deacons' flower ministry, please see Woody for a different vase so the flowers can be transferred.

Thank you for sharing the bounty of God!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children, youth and adults of all ages takes place every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. There's a class for YOU!

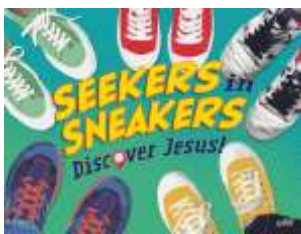
YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in Lyle Buck Hall. The next meeting is *Wednesday, April 24*.

Bring your own dinner. All 5th-12th graders are welcome!

Questions? Email DCE Virginia Callegary – churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

REGISTER NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



Seekers in Sneakers

Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

3 year old – rising 5th graders

(open to members and non-members)

\$20 per child/\$50 family max (free for family of volunteers)

To register scan the QR code.

Contact Aja Turesko, vbs@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

if you are interested in volunteering.



ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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



GRAB AND GO COFFEE is available on Sunday mornings at the Wake Up Station on the second floor across from the Parlor until 10:20 a.m. Get a cup of coffee and head to class! Please return the cups to the drop off bins.

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH *facilitated by Doyle*
Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

How to Do Short Term Mission Well

Sundays through May 5, facilitated by Brett

This course will explore mission theology rooted in companionship, how to engage across differences with cultural humility, and how to accompany global neighbors in co-development.

The series is based on the book "Freeing Congregational Mission" by B. Hunter Farrell with S. Balajiedlang Khylllep. A copy of the book is strongly encouraged for the class. The book is available new or used on-line.

FUTURE SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION at 9:30 a.m.

Being A Christian In Multi-Faith Cultures And Countries

Sundays, May 12 and 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Branch Hall

Moderated by Sara and Rev. Laura Hollister Fenton.

What's it like to practice your Christian faith in cultures or countries - the US and beyond - that have many faiths, including where Christians are in the minority? On **May 12**, Zafar and Humaira, and Khalid and Aashe will discuss growing up in Pakistan, where only about 1% of the population is Christian. On **May 19**, Genevieve and Sequoyah, who are Native American (members, respectively, of the Osage and Coharie Tribes), and Akua and Emmanuel, from Ghana, will discuss being a Christian in cultures that incorporate many faiths. They will also discuss the traditions from their culture. Join this unique opportunity to gain new insights from your church friends and develop new understandings.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

God at Work in Us: The People of Acts

How did the church spread from a small group of disciples in Jerusalem to the whole Roman world?

Come meet the people who shared the Good News in ways big and small.

The Wednesday Morning Study Group will explore the people and personalities of the Book of Acts. There are some amazing and uplifting tales to be told! Come discover how God was at work in their lives and how the Lord is still working in our lives.

Lead by Rev. Dr. David Welton and Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Good and Beautiful God, by James Bryan Smith

We will meet on April 17 to discuss Chapter 7 'God is Self-Sacrificing' with Rev. Andrea Lee Taylor

Register in advance for this and future meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiHjXW>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FELLOWSHIP HOURS on Sundays

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

- * *Sunday, April 21, 2024* – hosted by Ruth Circle (following Congregational Meeting)
- * *Sunday, April 28, 2024* – hosted by Deacons

BINGO PRIZES NEEDED

Discipleship & Caring Ministries (DCM) is now accepting donations for our upcoming Bingo event on *Sunday, May 19*. Look for a bin in the Harris Lower Commons to place your donations.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Actual Income as of April 16, 2024 | \$284,140.87 |
| Actual Expenses as of April 16, 2024 | <u>244,602.17</u> |
| Total | \$39,538.70 |

It takes an average of \$2,274.17 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church.
The total surplus/deficit shown above is 17 days ahead/(behind).

PER CAPITA FOR 2024 - The amount is \$40.00

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.

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

Have you paid your per capita?! Thank you to those 61 people who have paid it!

PW MISSION PROJECT

RUTH CIRCLE IS CALLING ALL PARENTS OF COLLEGE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS!

With your help, Ruth Circle would like to provide your students with a little pick-me-up before finals by sending each of them a gift card.

To participate, please provide your student's name and address to churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by Monday, April 22nd, and we will send your student a gift card and a note of support.

FAITHFUL CIRCLE QUILTERS QUILT SHOW

2024 Quilt Show – Faithful Circle Quilt Guild - "Rhapsody of Color"

Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3 - 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 4 - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission \$10 | Kids under 10 free

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

No food, drink, or strollers

Big Quilts, Small Quilts, Traditional Quilts, Art Quilts,
Modern Quilts, Pieced Quilts, and Applique Quilts

300+ Quilts | Vendors | Silent Auction | Peddler's Table | Unique Boutique |
Quilting Demos | Raffle Quilt & Baskets | Quilt Art/History Presentations

Raffle Quilt "Color Me Happy" – Quilt Size 83" x 90"

More info: www.faithfulcirclequilters.com

MISSION NEWS

SUPPORTING LOCAL CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES on the anniversary of a First Pres crisis 130 years ago. For the past several years our church has donated to the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center “Buy a Day of Services” program. Grassroots is the 24/7 single point access for behavioral health, crisis and homeless services for individuals and families in Howard County.

The date we’ve chosen to “Buy” for the past three years is April 24 because on April 24, 1894 the First Presbyterian Church of Ellicott City (precursor to the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County) experienced a crisis when the front of the building collapsed as a result of work being done to expand the foundation. No one was hurt but the building was largely destroyed. It was rebuilt with assistance from local churches and individuals, reminding us that when a crisis occurs, community involvement and support can have a lasting impact. A report on the services provided by Grassroots on April 24, 2024 will be shared when it’s available. To learn more about the Grassroots programs, please visit their website, <https://www.grassrootscrisis.org/>

2024 COFFEE RUN AND FUN

Saturday, April 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the church, rain or shine

We will be holding our 15th annual fundraiser for the Guatemala Coffee Microgrants Project. We invite everyone to participate in an afternoon of games, fun, and fellowship – including a chance to try your hand at pickle ball right inside the church! Spread the word!

Questions? Let us know at letsrunforcoffee@firstpreshc.org

You can find full details, register and make donations using the QR code provided. Or look for a table in the Harris Upper Commons on Sundays, where you can register in person, volunteer to help with the event, and get more information about the event and the Coffee Microgrants Project.



BEANS & BAGS FOR BRIDGES FUND RAISING event is coming!

Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Centennial Park, Pavilion H, 4770 Woodland Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Featuring Generous Chili meals Provided by *Absolute Perfect Catering*,

Friendly & Competitive Cornhole Tournament, Children’s Art Project,

Great Auction items, Live Music!

How to support Beans and Bags:

Purchase Chili Tickets \$25 for Adults \$10 per child. Eat in or Carryout.

Participate in Cornhole Tournament: \$50 per team of 2

Bid on Auction Items!

The 2024 Beans & Bags for Bridges supports **Bridges to Housing Stability's Work** to end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy.

For more information contact Bridges: emily@bridges2hs.org

Learn more and purchase tickets: bit.ly/BB4B2024

Volunteers are needed, sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FACA92DA2FCC25-48551534-beans#/>

FREE PLANT/TOOL/SUPPLY SWAP & GIVEAWAY

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m. - noon at the church. (Rain or shine.)

Drop off is 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10 and 8:00-9:00 a.m. on May 11.

Everything is free and *you don't have to bring anything to swap*. Beautify your garden, find a home for your green babies, get advice, clean out the garage, save money! Two Howard County Master Gardeners will give brief talks on “Companion Planting” and “Plant This, Not That.” Please, no invasives.

Volunteers needed for May 11! Please contact churchoffice@firstpreshc.org.

MISSION STUDY

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

The next task of First Presbyterian in our pastoral transition is to complete a Mission Study. The Mission Study will look at who we are as a church, who our community is, what the needs are in our area, and more. The goal is to discern where God is calling us to go.

As a first step in this we have contracted with Holy Cow Consulting to do a Congregational Assessment Tool with First Pres. This is a social science-based assessment of what makes our church tick. This tool will provide a clearer picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future.

Your response is very important to us.

We ask that you take the on-line assessment before **Monday, April 22** (THAT'S TOMORROW!). If you have multiple adults in your household who are active at First Pres, please encourage them to take the survey as well. We are looking to survey members and active participants, so you don't have to be a member to participate.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. The assessment will take approximately 25 minutes to complete. Please set aside enough time to complete the survey all at one time. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

When you are ready, click on this link and begin:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCHOWARDMD>



Or scan the QR code:

If you have questions, please contact Ken Page,
churchoffice@firstpreshc.org or 410-730-3545

Many thanks,
Zafar, Bruce, Agnes, Lisa, Tom

DEACONS NEWS

THE DEACONS WANT TO THANK EACH OF YOU for your support and generosity in the March Food Drive for Howard Community College's Food Pantry. We delivered 496.8 pounds of non-perishable food and personal care items. This was in addition to bringing 161 pounds of food in March to the Howard County Food Bank from the Just One Can initiative that runs throughout the year. You make a difference!

JUST ONE CAN...PLUS! – April – Baby Items

The Deacons are asking for specific supplements, this month it is extra donations of baby items. Recommended items are: diapers, wipes, formula, baby food. Please leave your regular contribution - plus boxes of cereal and oatmeal - in the "Just One Can" cart next to the Welcome Center in the Upper Commons or in the storage box by the back entrance (near the mailbox). Thank you on behalf on the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County. As always, the generous support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Adults
- 10:00 a.m. First Call on Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Worship – In-person & Livestream
- Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available 8:15–11:45 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/firstpreshc/live

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.)

Sunday, April 21st

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 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. Called Congregational Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour (following Congregational Meeting)
Coffee Run & Fun Signups
- 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle Meeting

Monday, April 22nd

EARTH DAY

LAST DAY TO DO MISSION STUDY SURVEY

Tuesday, April 23rd

- 1:00 p.m. Staff April Birthday Lunch
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 24th

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Study Group
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Study Group via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25th

- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 26th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded
- 5:30 p.m. Coffee Run & Fun Check-in

Saturday, April 27th

- 12:00 p.m. Set-up Coffee Run & Fun
- 2:00 p.m. 2024 Coffee Run & Fun

Sunday, April 28th

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 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