



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
September 1, 2024

TODAY

10:00 a.m. MORNING SUMMER 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 the sanctuary, you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you are joining from home, the link for worship will open around 9:50 a.m. 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.

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, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

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

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Jon & Chrissy for September which is Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Prostate Awareness Month. Please take a minute and pray for a cure; Eric & Kathy in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary; and by Carol & Woody in celebration of Daniel & Bridget's 10th wedding anniversary, a decade of happiness.

WE WELCOME Francis Ritterman as our guest musician this morning.

Francis X Rittermann is Music Director Emeritus of Christ Episcopal Church (Columbia), having served as organist and choir director for seven years. He has been a lifelong church musician and a member of the Baltimore Chapter of the Guild of Organists. He is a CPA and is married with 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: Alice

Ushers & Greeters: Chrissy

Tech Crew: Jonathan, Tracy, Matthew

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN TODAY

Host: Marie & Ron

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

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

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: The Downey-Handy Family, John & Judy, Theresa, Kathy, Peg, Al, Dave, Barbara, Jane, Aaron, Eyler, Matt, Susan, Judy, Gudeta, Anne & Nate and family, Evelyn, Bruce, Bart

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Nana, Trey, Margot, Pat, Harriet

Bereaved: Dave, Bob, Joe & Marla and family, Woody and Carol, Natalie and Jeff, Wayne and Sharon, McKissick Family, Eric & Lisa and family, Hilda and family, Jan 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, 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.



***IMPORTANT* GIFT CARD SCAM**

There has been a scam targeting members of our church where someone is impersonating Pastor Ken Page and asking people to purchase Apple gift cards. Please be aware that this is not a legitimate request. Pastor Ken and other church employees would never ask for gift cards or any financial transactions via email, text, or social media. If you receive any messages like this DO NOT respond to the messages, DO NOT purchase gift cards, and please report the message directly to the church office. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact the Church Office directly at 410-730-3545

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 15 at 11:30 am has been called by the Session for the purpose of electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend. It shouldn't take long.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR

You're invited to join the last pick-up choir on Sunday, September 8th. We'll meet at 9:45am, learn a quick anthem, and enjoy singing together.

Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS in 2024

September 15, 22, & 29. Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/flowers2024#/

The flowers cost \$35. Please send a check to the church office or via [PayPal](#).

Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

NEW 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE Starts September 8th!

Our new service will be intimate and participatory. We will worship in a circle around the communion table. Participants will lead the liturgy: i.e., "Would you be willing to read the Call to Worship today?" Music will be more piano and less organ with occasional guitar. Sermons will lead into a brief discussion session. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper every week. We are encouraging all our members to come and try something different at least once. Then, we will reassess the 8:30 service in December with an eye towards continuing or refining what we do.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our first youth group of the year is on Wednesday, September 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. 5th through 12th graders are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship in Lyle Buck Hall. You should have received a schedule of fall/winter activities in the mail. Text @fpchcsm to 81010 to receive occasional text messages about youth events. Questions? Email DCE Virginia Callegary, vcallegary@firstpreshc.org

SECOND GRADE BIBLES

Every year we give new Bibles to the second graders of the church. This year second graders and their Bibles will be blessed during worship on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Check with DCE Virginia Callegary to make sure your child is on the list. Watch your email for more information.

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

STARTING SEPTEMBER 8TH

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.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 15TH

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH facilitated by Doyle

Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

Each week we explore the literature of the Old Testament together.

THE BIG READ

This summer we read *Divine Gravity* by Meghan Larissa Good. We will meet in person THIS Sunday, September 1 at 11:15 am and on Zoom on Thursday, September 5 at 7:30 pm to discuss our observations of this book. Check the weekly email, sent on Friday, August 30, for a Zoom link. Contact DCE Virginia Callegary – vcallegary@firstpreshc.org – if you have any questions.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE? *taught by Rev. Ken Page*

Sundays, September 8 and 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 258

Most Christians use a handful of scriptures to “prove” that homosexuality is sin. We are part of a church that sees LGBTQIA+ identity as another beautiful difference created by God. How do we get there from Scripture? Have we simply chosen some passages to ignore? In this class Pastor Ken will lead us through a look at the “clobber passages” usually used against LGBTQIA+ people. We will explore them in the light of the culture of the day when they were written and in the context of the whole of Scripture. We will rediscover together our God who is far more loving than we ever imagined.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

The Wednesday Morning Study Group begins Wednesday, September 18th, 9:30-11:00 am, led by Rev. Rosemary and Rev. David.

HOLY GOD & UNHOLY NATION: the message of Isaiah

The prophet Isaiah speaks God’s Word to a weary, discouraged people, offering words of challenge and hope. ***How does Isaiah speak to our weary world today?*** Join us as we look for sources of renewal and abundant life in the book of Isaiah.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom with Rev. Andrea

Next class September 4

Register in advance for this and future meetings:

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

ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES

WORK DAY – September 21, 2024

Administration & Facilities will be holding a work day on September 21st from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Projects will include cleaning and painting. All are welcome to join. Please let Ron know if you are able to join us.

DEACONS

JUST ONE CAN...PLUS! – September – “Food Staples”

The Board of Deacons is campaigning for additional donations of grains and beans as part of our continuing efforts against hunger in Howard County.

Recommended items are: rice, pasta, dried or canned lentils, dried or canned beans, packages rice/pasta side dishes.

Please leave your regular contribution – and “plus” items - 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). And please don’t forget your regular JOC food donations, as hunger is an on-going concern for too many of our neighbors. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

MISSION

Thank you! Changing lives while having fun is exactly what happened at last weekend’s Guatemala Stove Fundraiser! With 60 attendees and other generous donors, we’ve raised nearly \$13,000 to purchase ONIL stoves for our 2025 and 2026 stove trips. At \$190 per stove, we’re just \$722 away from fully funding the 72 stoves for BOTH trips! If you missed the chance to donate—or if you donated but didn’t receive your stove project glasses—stop by our table in Harris Commons on Sunday, visit the Ministry Fair on 9/15, or use the PayPal link on our event webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/stoveevent>.

RECYCLING

Please Help Stevens Forest Elementary School! The Community Action Team at Stevens Forest, located in Columbia, is collecting plastic bags and other items between now and November 2024. If SFES collects 1,000 pounds, Trex will award the school with a bench made from recycled plastics. FPCHC can help by donating clean plastic bags and film. 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 ask Kipton or Megan. Thank you for all your support and we will keep you updated on our progress!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD’S WORK

Actual Income as of August 27, 2024	\$547,014.66
Actual Expenses as of August 27, 2024	<u>537,835.86</u>
Total	\$9,178.80

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 4 days ahead/(behind).



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Summer Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m. Worship – In-person & Livestream Worship
through September 1, 2024

Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available during 10:00 a.m. service

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.)

Sunday, September 1st

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COMMUNION SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play

11:00 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn – Final Week of Summer

Monday, September 2nd

LABOR DAY – CHURCH BUILDING AND OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 3rd

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

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

Wednesday, September 4th

1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship

7:30 p.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting

Thursday, September 5th

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

9:00 a.m. ROMEOs – Breakfast at Bob Evans

Friday, September 6th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, September 7th

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

First Pres PRIDE DAY – Wear T-Shirts

Sunday, September 8th

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AKWAABA 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 & Worship Bridge

11:30 a.m. Ministry Fair - WAM, A&F, DCM, CE, & Photo Booth

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, September 12, 2024** for October 2024 events. Then watch your inbox every week!*