



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
August 17, 2025

TODAY

SUMMER WORSHIP:

8:30 a.m. (in-person) in Branch Hall

10:00 a.m. (in-person & livestream) in Branch Hall

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 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.

Worship bags for children are available in the Upper Commons.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Jean in loving memory of Jonathan (1975 - 2019); and The Collins Family "in celebration of a new positive school year for students, staff, and teachers!"

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: **8:30 a.m.:**

10:00 a.m. John

Ushers & Greeters:

10:00 a.m.: Chrissy

Tech Crew: **8:30 a.m.:** Barry, Margot

10:00 a.m.: Jacob, Joyce, Tracy

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN TODAY

Host: DCM for Ice Cream Sunday

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of August 12, 2025	\$555,337.41
Actual Expenses as of August 12, 2025	<u>559,272.23</u>
Total	(\$3,934.82)

It takes an average of \$2,381.21 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church.
The total surplus/deficit shown above is (1.7) 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 55 people who have paid it!

DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

NEXT Sunday, August 24 following the 10:00 a.m. service (held rain or shine)

Host: Sara and Margot

Greet friends on the front lawn for lemonade and refreshments!

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2025

Please pray for: Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Chuck, Karin, David, Dot, Jerri, Matt, Steve, Pat, Barb
And also for: everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood, Vantage House, and Morningside House.

Non-Resident Members: Frank and Betty, Barb

Friends & Family: Susan, Judy, Matt, Pastor Juan, Adolfo, family & friends of Jacob, Dan & Kathy, Ken, Mitzi, Priscilla, Pastor Timoteo, Myrna, Saleem, Monika, Mechelle, Naina, *Joanie, Knut's family*

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Nana, Dot, Ann, Bob, Ginny, Jan, Barb, Becky Torrance, Paula, Jimmy

Bereaved: Dave, Bob, 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, Doyle & family, Khalid & family, Johanna & Rob & family, Martin & Caroline and family, Cathy and family

*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.*



MISSION

Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee: In 2022 the Baltimore Presbytery concurred with the General Assembly overture RGJ-08, "An Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy." In doing so, we declared that as a Presbytery the next steps in our journey would be "apology, history, and restorative action." This work has been underway. At the 908th Stated Meeting of Baltimore Presbytery on September 13, 2025 the Presbytery will vote on the "proposal of the Dismantling Racism Team of the Presbytery of Baltimore to Create a Reparative Justice Fund". The purpose of the fund is to contribute to repair of historic harms through investment in the self-development of African-American communities. The proposal was presented and discussed at the 907th Stated Meeting of the Baltimore Presbytery on May 22, 2025. The text of the proposal and a Facts document (FAQ) can be found at the following links:

<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/Reparative-Justice-Fund-Proposal-May-22.pdf>

<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/Reparative-Justice-Fund-FAQ.pdf>

Video of the discussion can be found at the following link beginning at about minute 57:30.

<https://baltimorepresbytery.org/stated-meetings/>

Presbytery has an upcoming workshop "Dismantling Racism: A Continuous Journey" on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Find additional information at <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/events/dismantling-racism-continuous-journey/>

And there are virtual update meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month from 1-2 p.m. for folks interested in this work.

Find additional information at <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/events/dismantling-racism-continuous-journey/>

Please contact Kathy or Laura for questions of more information or e-mail Mission at Mission@firstpres.org.

FIRST PRES received an appeal from Afghan Scout Relief Fund (afghanscoutrelieffund.org), a non-profit that evacuates at-risk Girl Scouts from Afghanistan to the US so they may continue their dream of an education. They are looking for a host family for a young woman who arrived recently and will be attending HoCo Community College but needs a place to live. If you're willing to explore, please contact the church office.

ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES

FIRE RECOVERY: The Church was struck by lightning on July 1st causing smoke and structural damage to the Sanctuary and Buck Hall. All of the cleaning, debris removal, and off-site storage of furniture and equipment is complete.

On the surface, the damage appears to be minor. However, the heat from the fire resulted in the need to repair one floor truss and totally replace another. The truss repair and replacement has a domino of events. First, the sprinkler system and utilities in the ceiling of Buck Hall will have to be removed to provide access to the trusses from above. Once the work on the trusses is completed, the repairs to the utilities and sprinkler system in Buck Hall and the Sanctuary will need to be completed. At this point, we will be able to assess the damage and needed repairs to the electrical system in the Sanctuary. With all the utilities repaired the construction of the Sanctuary and Buck Hall will take place. The County will require permits for the structural and plumbing work. We are awaiting the initial damage cost estimate from the Insurance Adjuster, plans from the Structural Engineer on the truss replacement, and a time estimate from the restoration company to complete. The night of the fire, the restoration company estimated a 6-12 month period to complete the work. Given the structural components that need to be replaced, the longer end of the time estimate appears more likely.

THE KIPTON PROJECT

Please continue to bring your plastics to FPCHC, because Scout America BSA Troops 361 are now collecting. Please help the Boys and Girls 361 by donating plastic bags, film, and other items toward their 1,000 pound goal. Trex will award the Boys and Girls Troops 361 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 or Woody Collins.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: August 24. 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

DEACONS NEWS

DEACONS JUST ONE CAN ... *PLUS!* – August: Food Staples

This month the Deacons are campaigning for specific items requested by the Howard County Food Bank: bags of rice, pasta & sauce, spices, soups, tuna, peanut butter, sauces & condiments, bags of dry beans, hot & cold cereal, 100% fruit juice, diapers (size 4+), feminine hygiene products.

Please leave your regular contribution – plus “Food Staples” items – in the “Just One Can” bin located in the Upper Commons. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

THE DEACONS COMPASSION FUND: Helping First Pres LOVE ACTIVELY

The Deacons Compassion Fund offers emergency financial support to individuals and families in our church and community—quietly and compassionately—when it's needed most.

Your gifts provide:

- Emergency aid to prevent eviction or utility shut-off
- Food assistance, including Thanksgiving gift cards
- Support for the HCC Food Bank during times of scarcity
- Monthly funding for the Howard County Community Action Council (CAC), which offers food, housing, and counseling to those rebuilding their lives



(When someone calls First Pres needing these services, we often refer them to CAC, which can better meet their long-term needs.)

How to Give: Use the yellow pew envelopes; note “Deacons Compassion Fund” on your check; or give online:

[Deacons Compassion Fund PayPal Link](#)

Your generosity ensures that no call for help goes unanswered. Thank you for loving actively.

PC(USA) ADVOCACY

PC(USA) has issued an open letter about the situation in Gaza, calling for 10 actions “grounded in the Gospel,” including an immediate ceasefire and “a renewed international commitment to a just peace that ensures equality, safety and dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis.” pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/31/rev-jihyun-oh-calls-urgent-accountability-devastating-crisis-gaza

Please consider contacting your Members of Congress to ask them to address this terrible situation. Contact info can be found at firstpreshc.org/serve-nationally.

Pansies for Akwaaba 2025



Akwaaba Sunday is *September 7, 2025*

Help us decorate Branch Hall
with colorful pansies!

\$4.25 each for a 4 inch pot.

Deadline for ordering is
Sunday, August 24.

Go to [SignupGenius](https://signupgenius.com) to place your order. Please indicate if you will pick up your plants or leave them to be planted in the church gardens.

Contact: Jan if you have questions.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Info

Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available 8:20 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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, August 17th

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
- Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn: Ice Cream Social
- 3:00 p.m. Ruth Circle Kick-Off & Pool Party

Monday, August 18th

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

Tuesday, August 19th

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, August 20th

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE

- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship

Friday, August 22nd

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, August 23rd

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

Sunday, August 24th

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
- Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn

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 11, 2025 for October 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*