



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
November 30, 2025

TODAY

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

10:30 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 Branch Hall, you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you are 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 during 10:30 worship, children ages 4-7 may go to Godly Play with Ms. Kathy Moore. Children who go to Godly Play can be picked up by a parent/guardian following worship in rooms 110/113. Older children may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to Worship Bridge.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS are available in the Upper Commons.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Catherine in memory of Ed, who passed away on 11/28/2024; the Mission Unit in celebration of Margot for her dedication to the CWS, and by Carol & Woody with Joy and celebration for Bridget's birthday.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: **10:30 a.m.:** Bruce

Advent Candle Lighters: **8:30 a.m.:** Members of Ruth Circle

10:30 a.m.: Members of Ruth Circle

Ushers & Greeters: **10:30 a.m.:** Chrissy, Steve

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

10:30 a.m.: Jacob, Tracy

FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY

Host: Chancel Choir



PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Please pray for: Jim, Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Chuck, Karin, David, Jeri, Steve, Barb, Natalie, Louisa, Harriet

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: Pastor Juan, Adolfo, Dan & Kathy, Mitzi, Priscilla, Pastor Timoteo, Saleem, Monika, Mechelle, Naina, Knut's family, Carole, Lorraine, Sharon, Bruce, Marybeth, Sharon, Jerry, Anthony & Nico

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Richard, Chuck, Darlene, Dan

Bereaved: Wade & Monta, Amanda, Catherine and family, Doyle & family, Khalid & family, Johanna & Rob and family, Martin & Caroline and family, Cathy and family, Bob and Nancy, Natalie and family, Evelyn & Family, Stacey & Family, Trey and family, *Tom & 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.*



CHURCH OFFICE

CAN YOU HELP? We are looking for a list of volunteers to cover the office duties when Megan, our Church Administrator, is on vacation or unable to come to work. Are YOU able to help?

Megan will provide all volunteers with a brief training session on her ways of working as well as up-to-date needs/specifics prior to any planned leave.

Please contact Megan directly or Janet if you can serve our church with this periodic volunteer need. Thank you!

ADULT EDUCATION

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT WEEK, 9:30-10:25 a.m. Grab and Go Coffee is available on Sunday mornings.

BIBLE IN DEPTH: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor, facilitated by Doyle
Each week we explore the literature of the Old Testament together.

THE MAGNIFICAT IN ART AND MUSIC led by Rev. Rosemary
December 7 in Room 154

Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46-55 has long been an inspiration to musicians and artists. Come explore how visual artists and composers have interpreted the scripture and learn from their insights.

ZENTANGLE ART led by Ginny: December 14 in Room 154

Art! Zentangle is an easy-to-learn method of creating beautiful images from repetitive patterns. This method promotes relaxation and mindfulness and can help renew your spirit. No artistic experience is required! All materials will be provided.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

Mornings at 9:30-11:00 am in the Parlor, led by Rev. Rosemary and Rev. David.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: The Bible is "the Word of God," so how do we read and understand it faithfully? With Marcus Borg's book, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, as our guide, we will take a fresh approach to reading the scriptures. Join us on Wednesday mornings as we seek to take the Bible seriously, but not literally.

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

Reading: Better Ways to Read the Bible by Zach W. Lambert

The Bible has been used to subjugate women, justify racism, bash LGBTQ+ people, cover up abuse, and exclude those who speak out against such injustices. The stories are interesting, the reading is elective.

The link can also be found in the weekly email. Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiqHjXW>

DEACONS NEWS

HELP FILL A CHRISTMAS STOCKING – Share the Joy!

Join the Deacons as we partner with Columbia Community Care (CCC) and the Salvation Army to bring holiday cheer to families in need by filling a Christmas stocking for a child this season!

- **Pick up a stocking** in the Lower Commons beginning **Sunday, November 9.**
- **Return filled stockings with unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 7** — no later!

Need suggestions for a mix of **practical and festive items**? Check out the **First Day Special Insert** or the **News & Updates** section at the bottom of the home page of church website: [First Presbyterian Church of Howard County | PCUSA church in Columbia MD](https://www.pcusa.org/). **Have questions or need assistance?** Please reach out to: Bridget; Barb; or Lisa. **Let's come together to share the joy and make this season brighter for every child!**

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Please order a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season.

The cost is \$16.00 per plant.

Deadline for orders is *Sunday, December 7, 2025*

To order poinsettias go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Poinsettias2025>

Please list your dedication in the appropriate space on SignUpGenius.

Poinsettias can be picked up at the church:

- pick up your plant after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24.
- make other arrangements, contact the church office.
- leave plant to be delivered by the Deacons to a church member.

For more information or questions, contact Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org



DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS – There are openings available on the following Sundays: December 21. Here's the link to sign up: <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



WAM IS LOOKING FOR ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS for Worship Services in December. Please contact Julianna if you are interested.

MISSION

JOIN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY to Walk through the Symphony of Lights at Merriweather **TODAY** Sunday, November 30 at 5:30. Cost is \$15. Meet at Dennis Lane and Merriweather Road. It is a one-mile walk. Purchase tickets ahead of time at <https://www.merriweatherlights.com/walk-thru>
Email Amanda if you plan to attend.

GUATEMALA MISSION SUMMER TRIP: Consider joining the trip to Guatemala July 1-10, 2026. Up to 20 participants can be part of activities with our partners: meeting the scholarship students, visiting coffee fields, and conducting a mini VBS and a women's event, followed by visits to Antigua and Tikal. Trip cost is ~\$2,250; financial aid is available. Minimum age: 14 years. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Applications are available at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Deadline for registering is noon, Sunday, Dec 7, 2025. Questions? Send an email to guatemala@firstpreshc.org, or ask Becky, Brett or Mandy.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE has developed a list of "[Resources on Policy Advocacy Supporting Compassion, Decency and Justice For All](#)," to give the congregation more options to access information. The list includes state and national advocacy organizations covering a variety of issues, and that are generally in alignment with PC(USA) positions. It is located at the bottom of the advocacy page on our website, <https://www.firstpreshc.org/serve-nationally>. Anyone can suggest additional resources for the list - please send the resource, link and a short description to Advocacyresources@firstpreshc.org, for Mission Committee review.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

This year we have an Advent devotional for everyone! If you would like any of these devotionals sent to you in a digital format or mailed to you please email your request to DCE Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

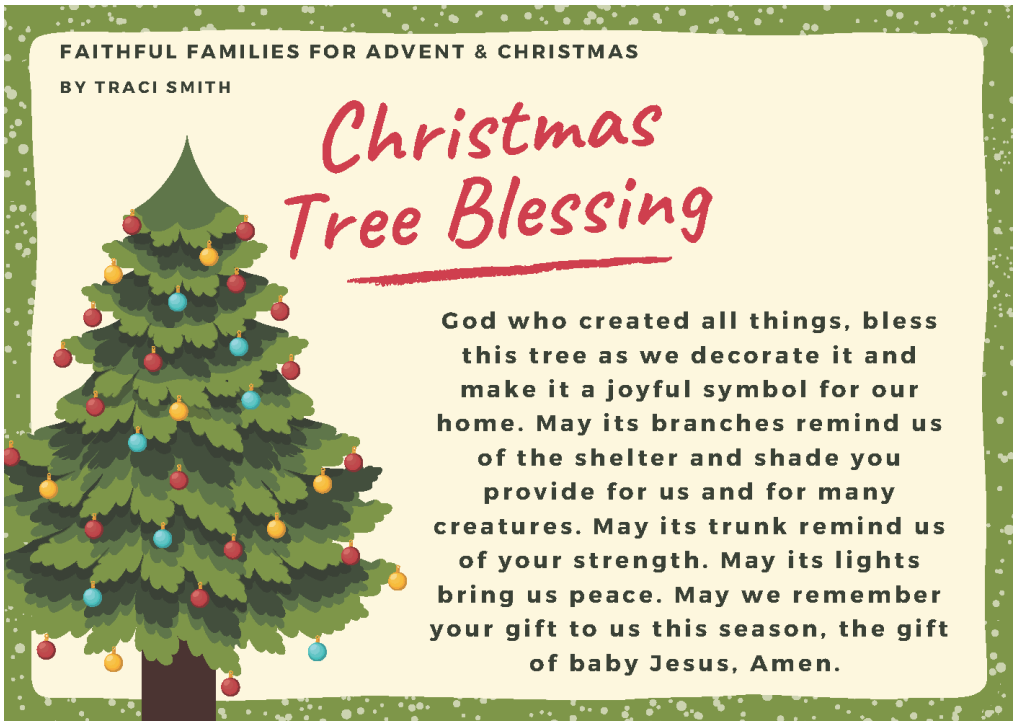
Table Tent Devotional – These simple table tents are particularly good for families with children/youth. They provide weekly prayers and wondering questions that follow the traditional themes for each of the four weeks of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. (suggested ages: all)

Visio Divina – Visio Divina means “sacred seeing” and is a way to interact and learn from Scripture. Scripture, wondering questions, and a prayer for each week of Advent is posted online. Contact Virginia if you would like the link. You are encouraged to choose (or take) a photo you think connects with the passage. If you would like to share your photos with others in the congregation, you can do so on the link. (suggested ages: all)

Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love – A devotional with daily reflections, Scripture, prayers, and children’s artwork. (suggested ages: adults & older youth)

Trans Advent – This printed devotional includes weekly commentaries from trans people of faith as well as the online Trans Advent Calendar featuring Trans Saints and Trans Organizations that we can learn from and support. (suggested ages: adults)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: All 5th -12th graders are invited to our next Youth Group on Wednesday, December 10 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will provide dinner. Email Virginia Callegary - vcallegary@firstpreshc.org



Copyright 2020 Chalice Press, used by permission of the publisher

ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES

The Fire 400 Campaign

What do all of the following things have in common: worship, fellowship, Bible studies, choir, Just One Can, Thanksgiving Baskets, community outreach, the Kipton Project, Warm for Winter, Faithful Circle Quilters and OSHER, etc.? All of these groups use the Church building. Just like your home, over time equipment needs to be replaced. In the Harris Commons you will find the pew envelopes to donate to the Fire 400 Campaign. The red number in the left corner of the envelope is the amount you are contributing to the campaign. You make the choice on the amount. If the envelope that you would like to contribute is not available, you may creatively combine envelopes to equal that amount. Please take the envelope and place the donation in the collection plate, drop it off at the office, or make an online contribution through the church website (www.firstpreshc.org). The campaign will end **TODAY**, the 30th of November. Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Thank you to all who have contributed thus far!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD’S WORK

Actual Income as of November 25, 2025	\$1,210,352.65
Actual Expenses as of November 25, 2025_____	<u>1,091,830.24</u>
Total	\$118,522.41

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 55 days ahead/(behind).

*Mckissick Bequest without restrictions received \$50,000.00

*Insurance Claim Fire

Insurance Claim Revenue received	\$374,608.47
Contractor Payments made Fire_____	<u>(\$287,245.56)</u>
Balance Remaining from Insurance Check	\$87,362.91
All monies are added into the above balance	

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS ARE BACK!

Sponsored by The Deacons

*Sunday, November 9th, 2025 – Sunday,
December 7th, 2025*

Join the Deacons and help bring holiday cheer to families in need by filling a stocking for a child. Stockings will be distributed through Columbia Community Care (CCC) and the Salvation Army.

Pick up a stocking in the Lower Commons starting Sunday, November 9.

Return filled stockings with unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 7 (no later!).

- Keep items **gender-neutral** and **non-religious**, as families come from diverse backgrounds.
- Include **practical** and **festive** items.
Suggestions:
 - Toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes
 - Hats, mittens, gloves
 - Picture frames
 - Pens, pencils, markers
 - Flashlights
 - Small games, toys
 - Books/activity books (non-religious)
 - Sweets, nuts, fruits



Questions or want to participate but can't pick up a stocking?

Contact:

- Bridget
- Barb
- Lisa

The Deacons extend heartfelt thanks to Faithful Circle Quilters for making the stockings—and to you, the congregation, for your generous support!

*Thank you for supporting
First Presbyterian Church's Christmas
Stocking Project!*

16TH
ANNUAL

Alternative Gift Fair

December 5-7

Friday: 4-7 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday: 9 am - 1 pm

This holiday season, give gifts with purpose:

- Fair Trade gifts from around the globe
- Bring the family to shop at Children's Corner
- Donate to charity in their honor



First Presbyterian Church
OF HOWARD COUNTY

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD
(at the intersection of 29 & 108)
www.firstpreshc.org

A First Presbyterian tradition continues. What does it mean to shop for alternative gifts? Our fair highlights gifts with meaning that help others.

- We offer the opportunity to give monetary **donations** to organizations that promote justice, education and health to people in need. We will provide a card for you to give to let someone know that you donated in their honor. By donating this way, you won't get on the organization's mailing list and you know the full amount will be received as designated.
- Shop for certified **Fair Trade gift items** from around the world. Fair trade means that the artisans are paid a fair price for their work and can count on that income for their families' needs. Many of the items are eco-friendly, either made from recycled materials or designed to be reusable. Buying your items at the Alternative Gift Fair supports our Guatemala Project.
- The **Children's Corner** is an area reserved for children (through college age) to shop in secret. The items are all high-quality, fair trade, but the prices are lower (\$1 to \$12). We have helpers to assist the smallest shoppers as they choose and wrap gifts, keeping the purchases a surprise. This is something that the children look forward to every year. It is so exciting to surprise their families, teachers, and caregivers.

If you can come on Friday evening or Saturday morning, you will have the best selection of fair trade items and in the Children's Corner. In the past, some Sunday shoppers were disappointed that we ran out of items. Don't miss out!

Invite your friends and neighbors! You can share on Facebook or via our website link: <https://tinyurl.com/AGF2025>.

If you would like to volunteer, please go to the Sign Up Genius: <https://tinyurl.com/AGF2025Volunteer>.

Help us spread the word by sharing this flyer
with your friends and neighbors!

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.)

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION – 11/9-12/7/2025

Sunday, November 30th

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

No SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Monday, December 1st

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

Tuesday, December 2nd

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

Wednesday, December 3rd

- 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
- 7:30 p.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting

Thursday, December 4th

- 9:00 a.m. ROMEOs – Breakfast at Bob Evans
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 5th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded
- 4:00 p.m. Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 6th

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

- 10:00 a.m. Alternative Gift Fair

Sunday, December 7th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 9:00 a.m. Alternative Gift Fair
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages | Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

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, December 11, 2025 for January 2026 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*