



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
September 8, 2024

TODAY

8:30 a.m. EARLY SERVICE in the Sanctuary

10:30 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.

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR – AKWAABA - MINISTRY FAIR

TODAY *Sunday, September 8*, we celebrate Akwaaba as we welcome everyone back for the new church year! With the new church year beginning, now is the time to learn about all the wonderful events and activities being offered this year at the church! Attend the **MINISTRY FAIR – TODAY following the 10:30 a.m. service in Lyle Buck Hall** to learn more about the following ministry units: **Worship, Arts, and Music; Administration & Facilities; Discipleship and Caring Ministries; and Christian Education**. The photo booth will also be set up if you would like to add (or change) your photo for the online Church Directory. Printed copies of the Church Directory will be available for you to make any updates.

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

At 10:30a.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 your bags to the basket at the end of the service.

PANSIES FOR AKWAABA adorning the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Lynn, Janice, Brett, Ginny, Tracy, Kathy & Tom, Joan, Amy & Pat, Akua, Amy, Wilma, Sarah.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: Sara

Ushers & Greeters: Chrissy

Tech Crew: Jonathan, Margot, Laura

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

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

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.



With Joy and Celebration

Martin and Caroline on the birth of their granddaughter, Eleanor Lorraine, on August 30th. Cheryl and Kyra are the proud parents.



DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

To kick off the Fall, DCM is hosting a two week Ministry Fair in Lyle Buck Hall September 8th and 15th following the 10:30 service. Please plan to visit the Ministry Fair both Sundays to hear about all of the exciting things going on at First Presbyterian Church. It is a great opportunity to meet up with your church family and to hear about programs that might interest you, as well as ways to serve.

Week 1: September 8, Worship Arts and Music, Administration and Facilities, Discipleship and Caring, Christian Education and the Photo Booth for the Church Directory will be set up.

Week 2: September 15, the Deacons, Presbyterian Women, Mission and the Photo Booth will be set up.

Come enjoy coffee and fellowship and learn what your church is doing.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR

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

Questions? Contact, mmcquillivray@firstpreshc.org

PROGRAM YEAR FOR MUSIC IS STARTING THIS WEEK!

Rehearsals for Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir start this week! Handbells will be on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. & Chancel will be on Thursday's at 7:30 p.m.

For more information about the Music Program contact Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, mmcgillivray@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 today, 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.

VIRTUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

This year we invite you to a digital observance of Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 13. We encourage you to submit pictures of your pets, past and present. You are also welcome to submit pictures of the wildlife around your house that bring joy and delight. Even if you or your children do not have a pet, but have a stuffed animal, send a picture. Join us as we declare, "How manifold is the work of God. In wisdom, the Lord made them all." Please send a picture of your animal to Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org) by Sunday, September 29.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of September 3, 2024	\$560,611.59
Actual Expenses as of September 3, 2024	<u>540,633.67</u>
Total	\$19,977.92

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 9 days ahead/(behind).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's Confirmation class is starting on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Confirmation is open to students in eighth grade and older. An informational email was sent at the end of July. If you did not receive an email and would like information about this class contact DCE Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting for Sept. 15th is canceled. The Presbytery COM loved our Mission Study and approved it, but balked at giving us permission to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee until we have decided on a pastoral staffing model (Solo Pastor, Co-Pastors, Head of Staff and Associate Pastor, etc.) Session has appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to bring recommendations on this issue, so that decision is already in progress. We'll call another Congregational Meeting when we get Presbytery approval. Stay tuned!

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.

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. Get a cup of coffee and head to class! Please return the cups to the drop off bins.

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.

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH facilitated by Doyle

Every Sunday starting September 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

We explore books of Scripture via a shared experience of the texts. All are encouraged to draw upon their personal views and experiences in order to teach and learn from one another as we endeavor to take a spirit-led walk across thousands of miles and thousands of years to explore what these ancient words have to say to us in the modern world.

QUILTS, COVID, AND THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR led by Catherine

September 22 at 9:30 a.m. in Branch Hall

Covid prompted some of us to consider new ways to enhance the visual impact of our on-line worship services. We have had banners in our sanctuary for decades. Come hear how we added quilts and other paraments to make our worship space more colorful.

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-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJqHjXW>

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 Huffman know if you are able to join us.

MISSION

Thank you! Changing lives while having fun is exactly what happened at the 8/24 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>.

Guatemala Scholarship Fundraising Campaign Starts Today

It's time for the Guatemala project scholarship fundraising campaign, which will provide scholarships to students in both the original scholarship program (grades 7-12) and the university scholarship program for the school year that starts in January 2025. The campaign runs today through October 20 with a goal of continuing to fund 94 students in the original program and increasing the number of university scholarships from two to four. Look for details on the church website soon. You can donate online using the QR code or by placing a check in the offering plate (indicate the Scholarship program in the memo line, please). Thank you for your generous support of this project, which has already helped more than 175 students graduate from high school. Questions? Please email guatemala@firstpreshc.org or contact Becky.



RECYCLING

UPDATE! 729 pounds of plastic has been collected. 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. 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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE SEEKS

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee is looking for...

1. ...people interested in restarting Conversations on Race (CoR). The person(s) taking on this project would collaborate with the Peacemaking Team to help to organize conversations, book studies, classes, etc. around the topic of race and racial justice.
2. ... people interested in Woman's Justice. The person(s) taking on this project would collaborate with the Peacemaking Team to help to educate the congregation as well as organize events to help the congregation to participate in advocacy and local change.

If you have an interest in being a part of these initiatives, please talk to or email DCE Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

***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. If you receive any messages like this DO NOT respond & DO NOT purchase gift cards.

CHURCH EVENTS 2024-2025

Please mark your calendars so you can attend the following events at
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. All are Welcome!

- 9/8 Akwaaba! The Ministry Fair – WAM, A&F, DCM, CE
- 9/8 First Day of Sunday School – all ages
- 9/15 The Ministry Fair – Mission, Deacons, Presbyterian Women
- 9/15 Second Grade Bibles Distributed
- 9/29 Guatemala 20th Anniversary Celebration
- 10/6 World Communion Sunday
- 10/6 or 20 Outdoor Fall Fire Pit Event – S'mores & Cider
- 10/27 Youth Corn Maze Trip
- 11/1 All Saints Day
- 11/9 (Sat) Warm for Winter Give-Away Event for Luminus
- 12/1 Advent Activity, Intergenerational
- 12/7 & 8 Alternative Gift Fair
- 12/15 Children's Christmas Pageant
- 12/21 (Sat) Longest Night Service
- 12/24 (Tue) Christmas Eve Services
- 12/29 or 1/5 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. & New Year Brunch

2025

- 1/16-21 Guatemala Stove Trip
- 1/20 (Mon) MLK Day of Service
- 1/22 (Wed) Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner
- 1/28 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 2/10-17 Cold Weather Shelter
- 3/4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday Service
- 3/7-8 Confirmation Retreat
- 3/30 Confirmation Sunday
- 4/6 or 5/4 Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
- 4/13 Palm Sunday
- 4/17 (Thu) Maundy Thursday
- 4/18 Good Friday Service
- 4/20 Easter Sunday Services & Brunch
- 4/26 (Sat) Coffee Fun & Run
- 5/3 (Sat) Plant Swap
- 5/10 (Sat) Presbyterian Women's Mother's Day Tea
- 6/1 Church Picnic
- 6/8 Ordination & Installation of Officers; Drag Queen Story Hour
- 6/22 Pride Sunday
- 7/21-25 Vacation Bible School

Always check First Day! and Tidings via email for more details, events and meetings!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship – In-person & Livestream Worship

Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available 8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.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.)

GUATEMALA SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN – SEPTEMBER 8 – OCTOBER 13, 2024

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

Monday, September 9th

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

Tuesday, September 10th

SUPER TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. Staffing Strategy Development Meeting

6:30 p.m. Discipleship & Caring Ministry Meeting

7:00 p.m. Christian Education Meeting

7:00 p.m. Mission Meeting

7:00 p.m. Worship, Arts, & Music Meeting

Wednesday, September 11th

1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsals

Thursday, September 12th

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 13th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, September 14th

9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle

Sunday, September 15th

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 – Deacons, PW, Mission, 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!