



# FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
March 9, 2025

## TODAY

### 8:30 a.m. EARLY SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

### 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. If worshipping in-person, you may appear in our livestream. If 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](http://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. Older children may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to Worship Bridge.

**Worship bags for children** are available in the Upper Commons.

**FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the Glory of God by the Debbie in honor of Gregory's 30th birthday!, Laura in honor of this beautiful church community who helped me raise my children.

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:30 a.m.

*Liturgist:* Emmanuel

*Ushers & Greeters:* Chrissy

*Tech Crew:* Jacob, Francois, Margot

## CHURCH OFFICE

**WHERE'S OUR CHURCH STAFF?** *Church Sexton, Woody Collins* is on vacation Monday, March 10 through Tuesday, March 18. He will be back in the office on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

**WHERE'S OUR CHURCH STAFF?** *Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus* is on vacation Thursday, March 13 through Sunday, March 23. She will be back in the office on Monday, March 24, 2025.

### TODAY IS PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE BLUE T-SHIRT SUNDAY

The first Sunday in Lent is "Wear your blue T-Shirt to church Sunday" as a testament to one of the ways One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges all congregations to participate in a "blue-out" on this day! Participate by sending your Blue Shirt Selfies to [pda@pcusa.org](mailto:pda@pcusa.org)! Will you be a part of this joyful manifestation of hope? Share this message on your personal Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social media outlets. Thank you for wearing blue today so we can be part of the "blue-out"! To learn more about the history of Blue Shirts and PDA visit:

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/blue-tshirts/>

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### RUTH CIRCLE IS CALLING ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF COLLEGE AND

**GRADUATE STUDENTS!** Ruth Circle is sending our students a gift card and a note of support. To participate, please provide your student's name and address to Lisa Whipkey by Sunday, March 23rd.

# PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9, 2025

**Please pray for:** Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Jim, Dename and Family, Chuck, Karin, Gaunt & Bush Family, Dot, Janet, David

**And also for:** everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House.

**Non-Resident Members:** Frank and Betty, Barb

**Friends & Family:** Matt, Susan, Judy, Gudeta, Anne & Nate and family, Evelyn, Bruce, Bart, Joe, The Beisler Family, Roy, Pastor Juan, Adolfo, Sue, family & friends of Jacob

**Care Center:** Virgie, Margaret, Lois

**Recovering from Surgery:** Nana, Jim, Ruth, Dot

**Bereaved:** Dave, Bob; Joe & Marla and family, 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, Anita and family, Kathy & family, Doyle & family

**PCUSA Mission Coworkers:** Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo, [www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd](http://www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd); Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru, [www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball](http://www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball); Leslie Vogel in Guatemala, [www.PCUSA.org/leslie-vogel](http://www.PCUSA.org/leslie-vogel)

*Please contact Pastor Ken Page, [kpage@firstpreshc.org](mailto: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.*



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

### OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of March 4, 2025	\$172,614.91
Actual Expenses as of March 4, 2025	<u>152,449.85</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,165.06</b>

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 8 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 41 people who have paid it!*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to our next youth group which is on Wednesday, March 12 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We'll provide dinner.

Questions? Email Virginia Callegary ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)).

## SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

**Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 2025, 9:00 am until Noon**

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School for three year-olds through current fourth graders. Cost is \$20/child (max \$50/family). Questions?

Email Virginia Callegary ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)).

## DEACONS NEWS

### ***JUST ONE CAN! March – Breakfast***

Let's help the hungry start the morning right with a good breakfast. Our special request for March is donations of cereal (including instant oatmeal), which is the most requested food item month after month in food pantries. There is a limit of one visit per family per month to the Howard County Food Bank, where the quantities given out must be strictly rationed to meet demand.

Please leave your regular contribution - plus boxes of cereal and oatmeal - in the "Just One Can" cart across from the Welcome Center in the upper narthex. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

### **MARCH Food Drive for Howard Community College Students**

Through the Howard Community College campus food pantry, the Fueling Dragons program at HCC is helping students who are experiencing food insecurity. Fueling Dragons is a series of programs designed to increase students' knowledge about nutrition, support students in making healthy choices, and provide access to healthier food options through meal kits, recipes, education, and workshops. We invite you to join us by donating the following most-needed items. You can place them in the Black & Yellow Bins labeled for HCC in the Harris Upper Commons. We will be delivering at the end of March, if you would like to help or have questions please contact Chrissy Barnett 301-814-8011. The last day to bring food to the church is March 30, 2025.

### **Shelf-Stable Needed Items for HCC Food Pantry Spring 2025**

\*Urgent: Cereal, Snacks, Spices and Condiments

**Vegetables (no-sodium or low-sodium):** Canned vegetables, Tomato products (paste, sauce) Mushrooms, Olives

**Grains:** Spaghetti, whole wheat spaghetti, Cereal with under 11g of added sugar (whole grain as first ingredient preferred)

**Proteins:** Low sodium beans, Dried lentils and soup mixes

**Mixed Dishes:** Ready made meals; Lower sodium soups (cream of mushroom, soups for baking), Pasta sauce (low sodium)

**Beverages:** Shelf-stable dairy alternatives, Tea, Coffee

**Snacks - healthy snacks:** Plain dried fruits and nuts in small packages, & Popcorn, pretzels, and chips in small packages

**Other Items:** Spices and seasonings, Cooking oils, Gluten-free products

**Personal Care:** Bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, Lotion for dry skin, Cleaning and laundry supplies, Can openers

## PNC

**MINISTRY DISCERNMENT PROFILE AVAILABLE ONLINE.** Our PNC recently had a MDP approved by the Session and by the Presbytery. The MDP is posted on the News & Updates section of our website.

# ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

**THE BIBLE IN DEPTH** facilitated by Doyle – every Sunday – *Parlor*

**THE RIGHTEOUS MIND – A BOOK STUDY** taught by Rev. Ken Page  
Sunday, March 9 in Branch Hall

We will be engaging in a book study on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt.

**A DIVE INTO ECUMENISM: AN EXPLORATION OF OTHER FAITHS**

taught by Carol

Sundays, March 16 & 23 in Branch Hall

**March 16** – The Greek Orthodox Church: The Greek Orthodox Church is one of the oldest Christian religions, dating back to the time of the Apostles. This presentation will explore its beliefs and rituals, and its history in the U.S.

**March 23** – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: This presentation will explore the basic tenets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and review the worldwide humanitarian work which is carried out by its members in conjunction with local and international organizations.

Carol serves as a Washington, D.C. FamilySearch Center Coordinator. She volunteered as a Genealogy Aide at the National Archives in Washington, DC for ten years and has worked with FamilySearch on several initiatives.

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY – *Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar**

This Lent, step into a journey of faith that challenges injustice, disrupts systems of oppression, and calls us into deeper love and action. Weekly discussion prompts will be posted in the FPC-HC Devotional Discussion Group on Facebook (use the QR code to join the group). We will meet on Sunday, April 6 at 7 pm on Zoom to discuss the book.



## WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

**Lenten Preaching Journey with Pastor Ken** – Beginning March 5th - Ash  
Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 am. March 5 - April 16, 2025

Each Wednesday in Lent, Pastor Ken Page will lead a study of the scriptures for the following Sunday. You're invited to join the Wednesday Morning study group as we explore the sermon texts with Pastor Ken, and get a "sneak preview" of the upcoming sermon!

**Evening – *Life Without Lack* by Dallas Willard** – with Rev. Andrea – Wednesdays  
at 7 pm through April 23

*Life Without Lack* is a look at the extraordinary claims of one of the Bible's most familiar passages, Psalm 23.

**Register in advance for the Zoom link here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiqHjXW>

## DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

March 16 needs hosts! If you'd like to bring snacks one Sunday, please check the SignUpGenius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACAF2BA0FCC52-51327460-coffee>

### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP HOURS on Sundays

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

\* Sunday, March 9, 2025 will be hosted by ROMEOs

\* Sunday, March 23, 2025 will be hosted by Deacons (Thanks for their regular support)

\* Sunday, March 30, 2025 will be held in celebration of the Confirmation Class

We thank all who have volunteered!



# WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

## DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: March 16 and April 6. 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](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

## EASTER LILIES

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter.  
The cost is \$25.00 per plant.  
Deadline to order is Tuesday, April 1.  
To order Easter Lilies go to SignUpGenius or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/EasterLilies2025>  
Easter lilies can be picked up at the church after the last Easter morning worship service on Sunday, April 20  
– **OR** – leave your lily to be delivered by the Deacons.  
For more information or questions, contact:  
Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)  
or Jan Agazio, 410-309-0290 or [janicebqa@aol.com](mailto:janicebqa@aol.com)



# MISSION

## SAVE THE DATE - PDA Mission Trip to Western North Carolina

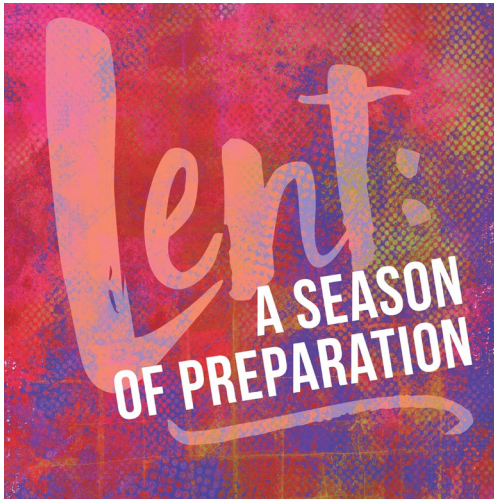
Please block your calendars for the Week of May 11-17 for a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Mission Trip to Western North Carolina for the purpose of rebuilding homes destroyed and damaged by Hurricane Helene. Exact travel dates, site and cost, etc. are being finalized. The plan is to work out of the PDA site in Black Mountain or Asheville. Let Debbie know if you have questions or are interested in joining us. Both full and partial week volunteers are welcome. Details will be communicated as they become available.

**PC(USA)** has created a virtual Presbyterian Advocacy Hour on the last Wednesday of each month, 12-1 pm, to give information and organize. More than 800 people signed up for the February call! The one on March 26 deals with immigration. Join good-hearted peers across the country. Use this NEW link to sign up for all calls. <https://tinyurl.com/PCUSAadvhour>

**CALLING COLLEGE STUDENTS!** Consider attending PC(USA)'s Young Adult Advocacy Conference, to learn how to influence public policy. Sept. 26-28 in Lansing Michigan. <https://presbyterianmission-22542400.hs-sites.com/advocacy-conference> The Mission Committee can help with costs - contact Sara.

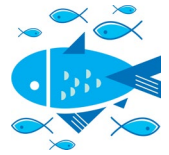
# THE KIPTON PROJECT

**UPDATE!!! We have collected 602 lbs. of soft plastics.** Please Help FPCHC collect plastic bags, film, and other items towards our 1,000 pound goal. Trex will award the church 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.



### **FISH BANKS FOR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering helps Presbyterians worldwide share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Pick up a fish bank in the Harris Upper Commons. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary – [vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)



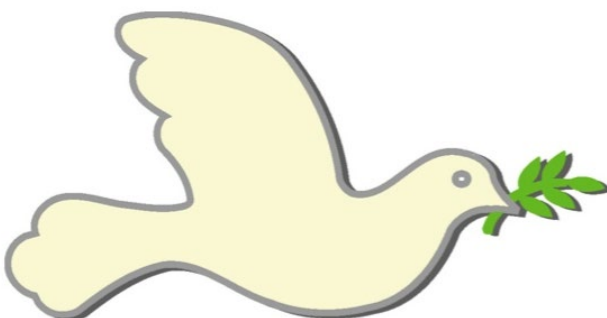
**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:** If you are unable to get to church and would like either devotional, let Virginia ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)) know and she will send you a copy.

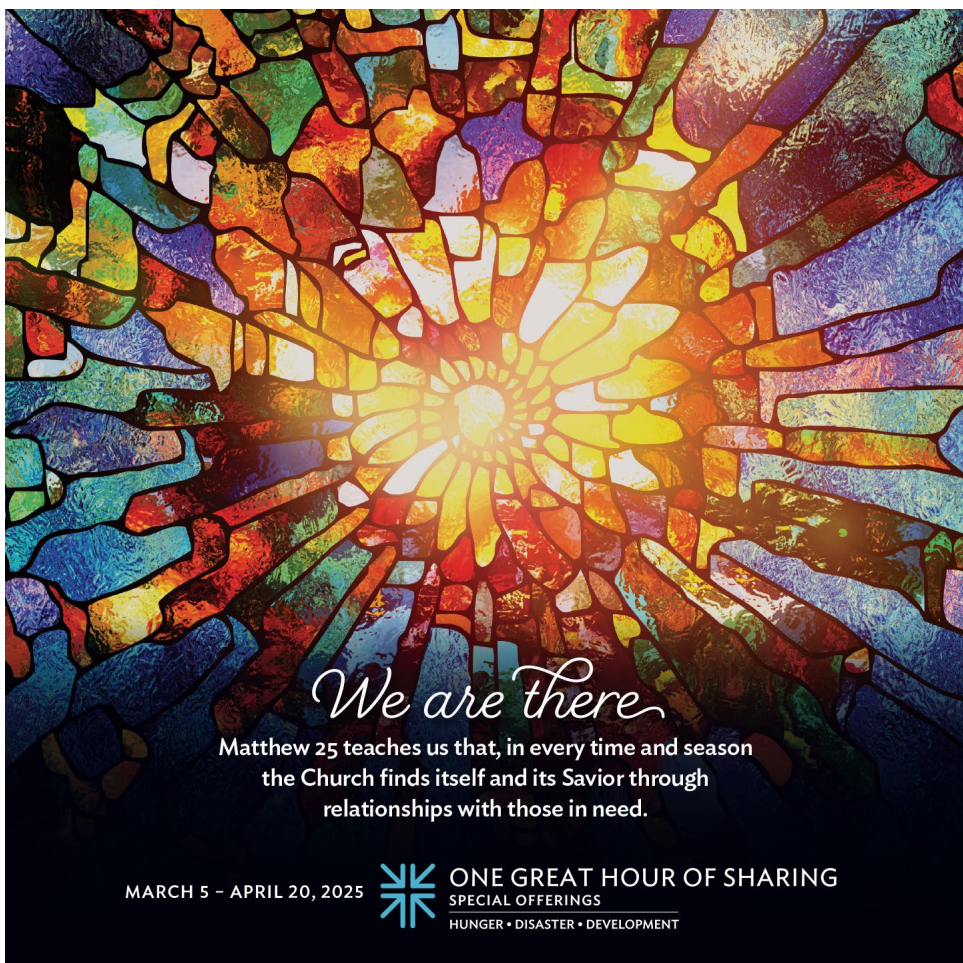
**For Families with Children** – Lent is a time for extra spiritual practice and added reflection. In this year's devotional, families are given one simple meditation and faith practice per week for Lent. These thoughts and practices are meant to work around busy schedules and fit in to life as makes sense for each family. Pick up your copy starting Sunday, March 2 in the Upper Commons.

**For Youth and Adults** – The devotional we are using this year is full of ideas and activities that can help us wake up, preparing our hearts, minds, and communities for Easter's great celebration. So grab your favorite Bible and some candles, and over the next 40 days, week by week, we'll look for treasures that can help bring us back to hope, back to love, back to life! Pick up your copy starting Sunday, March 2 in the Upper Commons.

### **MEDITATION MONDAYS**

Mondays during Lent we will be offering brief meditation times led by Bruce Johnson starting at 9:15 pm on Zoom. All are welcome. The sessions will last about 30 minutes and include mindfulness practices and Christian based centering prayer. Join us to journey more deeply into your personal understanding of our faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.





*We are there*

Matthew 25 teaches us that, in every time and season  
the Church finds itself and its Savior through  
relationships with those in need.

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is one of the four special offerings we will collect this year. It is collected during Lent with a special emphasis on the Palm Sunday collection.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**-- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**, and **Self-Development of People** — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Our congregation has a personal connection with the work of PDA. Through the years members have worked closely with PDA in restoring homes damaged by hurricanes and flooding. For several years we made trips to Mississippi to work on houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina, then to North Carolina and West Virginia for later storm damage.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterian come together every year to work for a better world. We should be as generous as we can.

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Info

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

FACEBOOK [www.facebook.com/firstpreshc](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreshc)

YOUTUBE <http://www.youtube.com/c/firstpreshc>

Links can also be found on the Website [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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, March 9<sup>th</sup>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

## Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

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

## Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

SUPER TUESDAY

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship & Caring Ministries Meeting via ZOOM
- 7:00 p.m. Administration & Facilities Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Meeting via ZOOM
- 7:00 p.m. Mission Meeting via ZOOM
- 7:00 p.m. Worship, Arts, & Music Ministry Meeting via ZOOM

## Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

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

## Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

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

## Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

## Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

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

## Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

PW LIFETIME PINS PRESENTATION DURING WORSHIP

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

*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](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) by **Thursday, March 13, 2025 for April 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*