



# FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
August 31, 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 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 9:50 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.

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

**FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the Glory of God by Judy in loving memory of my grandmothers, Florence and Helene; and by Doria in memory of Franny and Lizzy.

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

*Liturgist:* **8:30 a.m.:** Tyler & Kipton

**10:00 a.m.** Akua

*Ushers & Greeters:* **8:30 a.m.:** Margot

**10:00 a.m.:** Chrissy

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

**10:00 a.m.:** Jonathan, Margot

### LEMONADE ON THE LAWN TODAY

*Host:* Ron & Marie

Akwaaba is next Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!!!

We will be returning to our normal

Sunday morning schedule!!!

8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person

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. Fellowship Hour

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**CHURCH OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED** for Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025

This is a holiday for the Church Staff! Enjoy your holiday!

## ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES

**FIRE RECOVERY:** Good news on the repair front. The Structural Engineer will be submitting design plans to the County for approval that are much simpler than what we were originally lead to believe. The design does not require the need for custom made trusses that have an 8 to 10 week timeframe to manufacture. The steel for the repair is readily available at any steel supply house. Additionally, the plan calls for repairing the trusses from below and not making extensive cuts to the Sanctuary floor. The current estimate to complete the repairs is now six months.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN CLEAN-UP:** If you happen to see the following members of the Church: Evelyn, Savannah, Zach, Evie, Lily, Kathy, Margot, M.J., Jayne, Ron etc. would you please thank them for their hard work in clearing the weeds from the Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden now looks as it should. Many thanks to all who participated.

## 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.

## PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2025

**Please pray for:** Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Chuck, Karin, David, Dot, Jeri, Matt, Steve, Pat, Barb, *Bob and Nancy*

**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, *Carole*

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

**Recovering from Surgery:** Ann, Becky, Paula, *Richard*

**Bereaved:** Jan and family, Lois, Agnes & Family, Blondell Hunter, Wade & Monta, Amanda, Margaret, Catherine and family, Doyle & family, Khalid & family, Johanna de Cerff & Rob & family, Martin & Caroline and family, Cathy and family, *Natalie and family*

*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.*



## DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

**MINISTRY FAIR:** DCM is hosting a Ministry Fair in the Harris Commons on September 14 following the 10:30 am service. Please plan to visit the Ministry Fair to hear about all of the exciting things going on at First Presbyterian Church. It is a great opportunity to meet with your church family and to hear about programs that might interest you, as well as ways to serve.

## WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR** will begin rehearsals this Thursday, Sept. 4th at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room (Rm. 210). This is a great time to join the choir as you will be guaranteed a seat on Sunday mornings! New members are most welcome - bring a friend or family member that loves to sing!

**THE HANDBELL CHOIR** will be back this Fall! Our rehearsals begin on Wednesday, Sept. 10th at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room. New ringers are most welcome and do not need to have handbells experience, but the ability to count and read music is very helpful.

For more information or questions about the music program, please see Margaret after worship or contact her via email: [mmcgillivray@firstpreshc.org](mailto:mmcgillivray@firstpreshc.org)

### DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: September 14, 21, & 28. 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)



## DEACONS NEWS

**JOIN DEACONS IN SUPPORTING THE HELPING UP MISSION THIS SEPTEMBER!** This September, we're coming together to support Helping Up Mission (HUM)—an organization transforming lives in Baltimore for nearly 140 years. We're collecting essential items to help HUM serve individuals in need. Items Needed: Shampoo & Conditioner, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Solid Deodorant, Toothpaste and Toothbrush, Towels (Bath & Washcloths).

Please place your donations in the specially marked Helping Up Mission bin located in the Lower Commons. Want to Get Involved or Have Questions? Contact Jackie or Trae

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School for all ages starts on September 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Here is some helpful info:

**Ark Sunday School** (age 2 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade) starts with singing in Branch Hall. Children will be picked up in Room 150 at 10:25 a.m.

**L.I.F.E. Sunday School** (grades 2-5) starts with singing in Branch Hall. Children will be picked up in Room 106 at 10:25 a.m.

**Youth Sunday School** (grades 6-12) gathers in Room 204.

We hope to see you here!

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our first youth group of the year is on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. 5th through 12th graders are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship. Keep an eye on your mailbox for a schedule of fall/winter activities. Questions? Email DCE Virginia Callegary, [vcalleary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcalleary@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 14, 2025. Check with DCE Virginia Callegary to make sure your child is on the list. Watch your email for more information.

## ADULT EDUCATION

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 7TH, 9:30-10:25 a.m.** Grab and Go Coffee is available on Sunday mornings.

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER FOR DUMMIES: September 7, 14, and 21 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 154**, led by Rev. Ken Page

This class will focus on learning to pray in some ways that will be new to most Presbyterians. Practices will include Meditation, Centering Prayer, Contemplation, Examen, and Ignatian Decision Making, with side-trips into the God Box, Guided Meditation and the Bicycle Prayer. Ken has titled the class as being for dummies, because Ken considers himself by no means a master at these practices. He struggles with them, as much as you will, but has also come to experience great fruits to expanding his prayer practices. Ken will have sympathy for your struggles, and we will all have joy at God's gifts through prayer.

**BIBLE IN DEPTH: Sundays starting September 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor**, facilitated by Doyle

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

### WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

**The Wednesday Morning Study Group** begins Wednesday, September 10th, 9:30-11:00 am, 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.

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

Register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiHjXW>

## PC(USA) ADVOCACY

**PC(USA) HAS ASKED MEMBERS TO PROTEST** the "increased militarization on our city streets," which is obviously happening nearby, in Washington, D.C: "Today, we lament the increasing militarization of our cities and public spaces—a trend that undermines public trust, deepens racial and economic injustice, and distracts from policies that criminalize poverty, target immigrants and vulnerable populations, and threaten democracy." Use their platform to quickly write your members of Congress ([www.votervoice.net/mobile/PCUSA/Campaigns/129550/Respond](http://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PCUSA/Campaigns/129550/Respond)), or compose your own message (contact info at [firstpreshc.org/serve-nationally](http://firstpreshc.org/serve-nationally)).

**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](http://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](http://firstpreshc.org/serve-nationally).

# 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](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.)

HELPING UP TOILETRY DRIVE – 8/31-9/28/2025

## **Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LAST DAY OF SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 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

## **Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

LABOR DAY – CHURCH BUILDING AND OFFICE CLOSED

## **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

## **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE

- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsals

## **Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE

- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

## **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COMMUNION

AKWAABA SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person
- 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. 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](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, September 11, 2025 for October 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*