



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
October 12, 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. 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 Emmanuel and Akua Asiedu "Grateful for your blessings through our journey".

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

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

10:30 a.m. Linda

Ushers & Greeters: **8:30 a.m.:** Ron & M.J.

10:30 a.m.: Nancy & Emma

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

10:30 a.m.: , Joyce, Tracy

FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY

Host: DCM

HoCo PRIDE 2025

Our church is proud to be a sponsor of the Howard County Pride Festival **THIS Sunday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods. We will have a church table at the festival, sharing God's love and our support for the LGBTQIA+ community. Stop by and help us spread a message of welcome and affirmation! Get more info and pick up your free tickets at www.howardcountypride.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of October 7, 2025	\$642,958.73
Actual Expenses as of October 7, 2025	675,024.74
Total	(\$32,066.01)

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 (13) 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 57 people who have paid it!

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 12, 2025

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

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, Dan & Kathy, Ken, Mitzi Tyrie, Priscilla Bondhus, Pastor Timoteo, Saleem, Monika, Mechelle, Naina, Joanie, Knut's family, Carole, Evelyn, Lorraine, Sharon, Bruce, Marybeth

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Richard

Bereaved: Jan and family, Lois, Agnes, Blondelle, Wade & Monta, Amanda, Margaret, Catherine and family, Doyle & family, Khalid & family, Johanna & Rob & family, Martin & Caroline and family, Cathy and family, Natalie and family, Evelyn & 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.*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

TODAY at 9:30 a.m. Here is some helpful info:

Ark Sunday School (age 2 through 1st 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: All 5th -12th graders are invited to our next Youth Group on Wednesday, October 22 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Bring your own dinner. Text FPCHCYOUTH to 84576 to sign up for occasional texts about youth events. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary - vcallegary@firstpreshc.org

TRUNK OR TREAT: On Sunday, October 26, after the 10:30 worship service, Christian Education will host Trunk or Treat. Come to church in costume and stay to enjoy “trick-or-treating” at decorated car trunks. **Hosts are still needed!** To host a trunk, contact DCE Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS TODAY, 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 GUATEMALA PROJECT: October 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 154

led by the Guatemala Project leadership group

So, exactly what is a “compañerismo,” and why is it a big deal that First Pres has been in a covenant relationship with a presbytery in Guatemala for 21 years? Why was Guatemala selected as the location for an international mission in 2002? What’s the impact of our ministry there? How does our partnership reflect the PC(USA) mission philosophy? All these questions (and more) will be discussed during this overview of the First Pres Guatemala partnership.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: October 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 154

This class will be taught by Sabeen who is a Lecturer in Communication at the University of Maryland. She has been teaching since 2015 with a focus on human communication and audience engagement. She serves as a Board Member at Tarbiyah Academy and mentors youth at the Muslim Family Center, reflecting her commitment to education and community development. She also contributes research to the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) on trends in graduate management education. Across her roles in academia, research, and community leadership, she is dedicated to empowering learners and fostering meaningful growth.

CURRENT EVENTS - PRESBYTERIAN STYLE: October 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 154

This class will explore today’s issue from participant’s perspectives, as well as, from Biblical and Presbyterian polity perspectives. This class will be a moderator led discussion format with one pre-selected topic per class. There are no right or wrong perspectives. Bring an open mind as diversity of thought makes for richer understanding.

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.

Oct. 22, join in the discussion of chapters 1 & 2; the stories are interesting, the reading is elective. Oct. 15 & 29, skip weeks, no gathering.

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 author dismantles four common lenses for reading the Bible that lead to harm, and offers four lenses that promote healing and wholeness. Reengage Scripture in life-giving ways.

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

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

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS – There are openings available on the following Sundays: November 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. 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



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: October 19

Bring your pets to the 10:30 worship service for an in-person blessing. Appropriate leashing or pet carriers required. Weather permitting, we will be worshipping in the Woodlands Chapel. Dress appropriately, this event will happen rain or shine. In the case of inclement weather, we will be in Branch Hall. If your pet does not play well with others, bring their picture and we will bless them remotely. If you have mobility challenges that make the Woodlands Chapel inaccessible, the 8:30 service will be in Branch Hall, and you are encouraged to come then.

ALL SAINTS DAY is *Sunday, November 2, 2025*

In our morning worship services we will celebrate all the people—saints—of God who walked the way of faith with courage, devotion and love. We will remember the members of our household of faith who entered the Church Triumphant since last All Saints Sunday.

We would also like to remember other family members, friends, mentors and leaders who died in the past year (November 2024-October 2025).

If you have a family member or friend whose name you would like to include in this great day of memory, hope and celebration, please send your information to Megan Bondhus, Church Administrator, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by **Friday, October 24**. Thank you.

DEACONS NEWS

JUST ONE CAN ... PLUS! – October: “Food Staples”

This month the Deacons are campaigning for additional donations of food staples as part of our continuing efforts against hunger in Howard County. Recommended items: canned & dried fruit; tuna; hot & cold cereal; 100% fruit juice boxes; soup; baby food; pasta; canned beans (pinto, kidney, black); pasta sauce; coffee & tea; canned vegetables (low sodium); peanut butter

Hunger is an on-going concern for too many of our neighbors, so please don't forget your regular JOC contributions. Please leave your regular contributions – plus “Food Staples” items – in the “Just One Can” basket in the Upper Commons. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

Hey Parents — We've Got a Treat Just for YOU!

While the kids gear up for candy and costumes this Halloween, we haven't forgotten about the grown-ups!

Swing by the Deacons' **PARENTS Trunk** during **Trunk or Treat** on **October 26th** — this special stop is ALL ABOUT YOU!

Whether you need a moment to recharge or just want to snag a treat of your own, we've got something fun (and maybe even a little spooky) waiting for you.

Come feel celebrated — because you deserve it.

MISSION

GUATEMALA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER AT TINO'S

Sunday, 26th, all day. Tino's Italian Bistro will be hosting a fundraiser benefiting the Guatemala Scholarship program. Mention our flier when ordering and we'll earn 10% of your check. They're also running a half-price sale on bottles of wine. First Pres. currently supports 89 students in middle and high school, as well as four students working on university degrees.

PDA TRIP Nov 2-8, 2025: Asheville, NC. Rebuild homes damaged in Hurricane Helene. No skills required, just willingness. Housing in a church. Cost ~\$200 includes lodging, breakfast, & lunch. Group dinners at restaurants to help the local economy. Partial week attendance is welcome. Contact Debbie

GUATEMALA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Guatemala scholarship fundraising campaign for the 2026 school year is well underway! THANK YOU to everyone who has donated thus far. Because of your generosity, we already have enough contributions to fund 72 middle and high school scholarships. There are still three weeks left in the fundraising campaign, offering plenty of time to reach our goal, which is to continue supporting 94 secondary school students and up to six university students. Every donation goes 100% toward making education accessible to these deserving students.



Donations can be placed in the offering plate during services, sent to the church office, or made electronically by using the provided QR code. To ensure your gift is properly routed, please write "Guatemala Scholarship" on the memo line of any checks.

If you would like to pledge your support now and pay at a later date, simply fill out a yellow card, available at the Welcome Center, and place it in the offering plate or Mailbox #79. Your commitment will help with planning and can be paid over the next year at your convenience.

GUATEMALA PROJECT: STOVE/SUMMER TRIP – The stove trip will take a delegation of ~10 people to Guatemala January 15 – 20, 2026 to strengthen our partnership and install 36 stoves in the homes of our partner presbytery's members. Trip cost is ~\$1300. Deadline for registering Oct 19. Contact Brett.

The summer trip will take a larger delegation in late June/early July for 10-12 days. The trip includes 4 days of activities with our partners, meeting the scholarship students, visiting coffee fields, conducting a mini VBS, and a women's event. Following this engagement, the group will travel to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Antigua and Tikal. Trip cost is ~\$2,000. Deadline for registering is Sunday, Dec 7. Contact Becky.

Check out the Guatemala page on the church website. Questions?

guatemala@firstpreshc.org.

PC(USA) has asked us to contact our Members of Congress to call for "An immediate reopening of the government, and the passage of a just and moral budget that upholds human dignity."

(<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/130562/Respond>) or find contact information on the FPCHC website: <https://www.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

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 – 9/7-10/12/2025

Sunday, October 12th

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 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
- 11am-5pm HoCo Pride

Monday, October 13th

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

Tuesday, October 14th

SUPER TUESDAY

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

Wednesday, October 15th

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE

- 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

Thursday, October 16th

- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 17th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, October 18th

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

Sunday, October 19th

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle Meeting

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, November 13, 2025 for December 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*