



# First Day !

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
June 14, 2015

## TODAY

**SUMMER** is here and it is time again for “**Lemonade on the Lawn**”. Refreshments will be provided outside on the front lawn near the picnic tables. Come have a cool drink and visit with friends!



**USHERS & GREETERS:** Ron, M.J. (9:00); Margot, Chrissy (10:00); Elaine, Jonathan (Tech Crew)

**FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the Glory of God. The flower arranger is Nancy using flowers from the church gardens.

**ZENTANGLE ARTIST:** Thanks to Ginny for the Zentangle® art in this week’s worship bulletin.

**WE WELCOME** Jewish musician and composer Noah Aronson to worship this morning.

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE - RELAXED, REVERENT, JOYFUL

Summer Worship begins today with a Special Guest on June 14, 2015  
Interfaith Composer-in-Residence Noah Aronson.  
Come sing, pray and worship!

#### 9:00 a.m. – First Worship

Thirty good minutes of hymns, prayer and a Bible lesson – especially friendly for families with young children. Everyone welcome!

#### 10:00 a.m. – Summer Worship

Neither “traditional” nor “contemporary” – just the best of First Presbyterian’s worshipping tradition! A gathering of the whole church to enjoy God together through hymns and songs, prayers and praise, scripture lessons and a sermon.

Mark your calendars and plan to be part of a wonderful summer experience!

**LEMONADE ON THE LAWN RETURNS** with the Summer Worship Schedule. We need extra hands! Share in this ministry by signing up to host. Call the church office or sign-up in the Lower Commons.

**THE BANNERS** in the sanctuary depict the “tongues of fire,” God’s original Pentecost symbol, giving visual weight to this significant event in the church year. The scripture is from Peter’s sermons in Acts 2:17-21. It appears on the banners as broken words symbolizing the speaking in tongues. The banners are after the design inspired by Dean Heetderks, the art director of *Reformed Worship*, March 2008.

## ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

#### BIG READ 2015 begins Next Sunday!

Sunday, June 21 at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor

Big Read Kick-off and discussion of Chapters 1-3 of

*Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*

by Walter Brueggemann

## GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 14

**Please pray for:** Jeff & Cheri, Ruth, Estelene, Chris, Jowin, Joan, Burta, Barb, Jane, Jean & Richard, Pat, Linda, Jeff, Blessing & Richard, Dorothy, Jerry, Tom, Carol, Gertrude, Vivian & Robert, Paula, Bunny, Matt & Sara, Stan, Bette, Shirley & Betsy, Shirley, Al & Beth

**Moved to Copper Ridge:** Murray

**Upcoming Surgery:** Kai, Dot

**Recovering from Surgery:** Paul, Emma, Taylor

**PCUSA Mission Coworkers:** Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo; Amanda Craft and Omar Chan with the Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO) along the US-Mexico border; Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru.

*Please contact the church office, 410-730-3545, or Parish Visitor Ruth Bell, 443-668-1804 with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share.*



### PEOPLE ON THE WAY

**Ephrem Syrus** (c. 306-73) was born in Nisibis (now on the Turkey-Syrian border) in Roman Mesopotamia, which had been recently acquired by the Roman Empire. The musical creativity and elegant speech of this amazingly talented man earned him the nickname Harp of the Holy Spirit! Even his sermons had the metrical beat of music, and his theological writings have been described as poetic. Syrus introduced the extensive use of hymns into public worship, for both praise and teaching. Whenever he found heretics using songs to spread their teachings, Ephrem countered with his own lyrics to their melodies, with his versions continually winning out. He organized choirs to sing his songs, accompanying them on his harp. His poetry is particularly noted for its sensitivity to human hurts. He founded a theological school, but when the Persians invaded his town, he simply made a mountain cave his headquarters for missions. Suing both popular and learned methods, he wrote so extensively that he has been recognized as a Doctor of the Church. He died in Egypt while distributing food, money and medical relief to the poor.

**THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE** focuses the prayers of Christians week by week, so that over the year all the countries of the world are prayed for.

This week: *Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay*

*Pray for:*

- *Composers and poets, who have brought new songs to the churches of these countries and to Christians all over the world;*
- *Those who must live far from families and homes in order to make a living and provide for their families;*
- *Families and friends of those who were murdered or disappeared in Argentina and Uruguay.*

For more information about the Prayer Cycle, visit the website of the World Council of Churches: [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

### OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2015

*We pray for the churches and pastors of Baltimore Presbytery.*

- ✦ Franklinville Church – *is without a pastor*
- ✦ Frederick Church – *Eric Myers, Pastor*
- ✦ Glen Burnie Korean Church – *Chang E. Chung, Pastor*
- ✦ Good Shepherd Church in Joppatown – *Daris Bultena, Pastor*

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

**Mid-High Trip to Massanetta** – Tuesday, July 14-Friday, July 17

**Senior High Trip to Montreat** – Sunday, July 19 – Saturday, July 25

### SIXTH GRADE MAD (MISSION & ADVENTURE) WEEK

**Monday-Friday, July 27-31, 2015, meet at 9:00 a.m.**

Watch Tidings Issue 7 July/August 2015 and First Day! for more details about this fun and exciting week!

## VACATION BIBLE SUMMER

**Vacation Bible Summer** begins **TODAY Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** and continues each Sunday through July. Each week VBS will start in worship. After singing and praying together with the whole congregation children will leave for VBS. After worship parents can pick their children up in Branch Hall. We still need both adult and youth volunteers. Youth volunteers must sign up at least one week in advance. If you would like to volunteer please speak with DCE Virginia Callegary ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

**CALLING LITURGICAL DANCER of all ages.** We are beginning to rehearse our next dance so now would be a great time to join us. Contact the church office. Everyone is welcome, no experience necessary.

**OFFERING OF FLOWERS RETURNS:** You are invited to bring flowers cut from your own garden to worship on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Other opportunities will be July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>. See Tidings June 2015 Issue 6 for more details.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others. Give Blood on **Saturday, July 11, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in Lyle Buck Hall. Sign up in the lower commons or contact the church office.

### “TENDERS AND KEEPERS” NEEDED!

Enjoy and nurture the beauty of the Earth as Spring unfolds before our eyes here in the First Presbyterian Garden. You too, man, woman or child, can be a First Presbyterian “Tender and Keeper” and help the gardens grow, flourish, and bring delight to all. Just send your name and contact information to [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org) or call the church at 410-730-3545 to let us know you would like to help.

### JUST ONE CAN... PLUS! – June – “Restocking for the Summer”

As part of the Deacons’ continuing campaign against hunger in our area, we ask that you help by “restocking” the Howard County Food Bank with some of their most requested items: Beans - dried or canned, canned meat/tuna/chicken, canned Soups, cereal or oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter, rice, spaghetti sauce. Please leave your donations in the “Just One Can” wooden cart across from the Welcome Desk in the Upper Commons. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



### **FLAT JESUS DECORATING PARTY!**

Come to a Flat Jesus decorating party before/after church TODAY June 14. You can also pick up a copy at the Welcome Center or download one from the church website. Take Flat Jesus with you wherever you go this summer. Take pictures of Flat Jesus and share them with us on our Facebook page, Twitter (@firstpreshc), Instagram or email [photochallenge@firstpreshc.org](mailto:photochallenge@firstpreshc.org). Don't forget to use the #FlatJesus hashtag! Come to worship or check social media to see where Flat Jesus is spotted each week. Questions? Contact Virginia Callegary.

**BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING TODAY:** Stay healthy and come have your blood pressure tested in Lyle Buck Hall from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. Questions? Please contact the church office.



### **SECOND SATURDAY S'MORES**

**Saturday, July 11**

**6:00 p.m. in the Woodlands Chapel**

Show off your marshmallow roasting technique to your friends at our NEW Second Saturday S'more Party – **Saturday, July 11 and August 8.**

The church will provide the marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers.

All ages and roasting skill levels are welcome.

**OUR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT,** Caroline Smith will be on vacation Wednesday-Friday, June 17-19. She will be attending the *Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering* in Minneapolis, MN. Thank you to the following volunteers who will be in the church office: Alice Haskins, Carol Collins & Nancy Rentkiewicz.

**SENDING OUT:** Please pray for members from First Presbyterian attending the *PW Churchwide Gathering* June 18-21: Melanie, Debbie, Amanda, Carol, Debbie, Margot; and Debbie at the *PW Synod Summer Gathering* in Massanetta this weekend.

**THE SUMMER STITCHING MINISTRY** will not meet on Sundays during the summer. However, the Wednesday group continues to meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. If you wanted to start stitching again or are new to the program, please come for a very informal time. We have lots of projects to work on. Thanks to all who continue to help with this mission.

**MISSING A JACKET, COAT, OR SWEATER?** You may not need it now that the weather is warm but in the fall you will be looking for it! It may be here! Come to the church office **by tomorrow June 15** to claim it or it will be donated!

**SESSION RETREAT:** Session will hold their retreat on *Saturday, June 20, 2015*, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Branch Hall. Elders, please plan to attend to prepare for the new program year. This will be the Session meeting for June instead of the usual fourth Tuesday. Please keep your leaders in your prayers.

**THE LUNCH BUNCH** is having its next gathering at *Olive Garden* on Benson Drive (near Lowe's) on **Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. Retirees and empty nesters are invited to enjoy some time out with friends and help pick the next time and location! Sign up in the Lower Commons or email [discipleship@firstpreshc.org](mailto:discipleship@firstpreshc.org).

## SUMMER AFTER CHURCH

### SUMMER AFTER CHURCH begins TODAY Sunday, June 14, 2015

Every Sunday this summer there's something fun happening After-Church at around 11:15 a.m. The activities last about an hour. We've planned lots of different kinds of activities, so there is something for everyone.

New this year is Kids' Read – kids and books in the church library.

We're scheduling Kids Read at the same time as the Big Read Gatherings.

The church family that reads and prays together is a great church family!

After-Church activities start as soon as you can grab some Lemonade on the Lawn and join in.

**June 14:** Lemonade on the Lawn Kick-off!

**June 21:** Big Read Kick-off and Kids Read Kick-off

**June 28:** PICNIC!

See Tidings Issue 6 June 2015 for the entire list.

### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - Sunday, June 28, 2015

immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service

Lyle Buck Hall and the side lawn under the willow tree

Church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and fixings

Please bring a favorite salad or side dish to share.

Also bring lawn games, table games and blankets and chairs.

Contact: [discipleship@firstpreshc.org](mailto:discipleship@firstpreshc.org)



## MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLE

The Year Round Stewardship Committee invites your consideration of the following stewardship principle as you consider how you handle the resources (finances, time, and talent) that God has given you.

Principle #16. Eliminating non-essentials shortens our journey to God.

After watching the Senate and the House discuss budgets, spending and the national debt, I have to say my own financial habits are not much better. So, why do I have so much? Why do I See and Want “stuff” I don’t need? It seems that it is in my nature to “want” stuff. Check out the DVD, Veggie Tales, Madame Blueberry, for a fun treat (adults and kids alike) on exactly what I’m talking about.<sup>1</sup>

I need to ask God’s help in keeping my wants and my needs in perspective. Even with God “having my back,” it’s going to be hard, but look at what 1 Timothy 6:6 says: Godliness with contentment is great gain. This passage tells me that, for example, when I turn away from the latest unneeded sweater fad, I can be assured that I am doing the correct thing. Oh, I’m not going to come to church looking like a frump, but I don’t need to have on the latest fashion craze either.

I believe this is why Jesus tells us that the rich man will have a hard time getting into heaven (Matthew 19:23-24); all his belongings blind him to the important things in life. The simplicity of Christ’s love is all you really need. With the Spirit of Christ inside me, I will be a better Steward of all that God has given to me.

1. Veggie Tales Videos from Big Ideas Productions, Inc.

# Weekly Calendar

## Every Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. First Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship
- Infant & Toddler Care is available all morning
- Godly Play (age 4 – grade 1) during 10:00 a.m. services
- 11:00 a.m. Summer After-Church

## Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

- ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS
- NOAH ARONSON – COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE
- VACATION BIBLE SUMMER | MOVEABLE FEAST
- 9:00 a.m. First Worship
  - Blood Pressure Screening
  - Lemonade on the Lawn Kick-off
- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship
  - Vacation Bible Summer
  - Lemonade on the Lawn Kick-off
- 11:30 a.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. Vantage House Worship

## Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 p.m. *Inspirit* Counseling Services Board Meeting

## Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Hannah Circle

## Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Year Round Stewardship Committee

## Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>

- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING
- 6:45 p.m. Pastor-Parish-Personnel Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

## Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING
- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

## Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING
- 9:00 a.m. Session Retreat
- Church Work Day

## Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

- TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE | VACATION BIBLE SUMMER
- FATHER'S DAY
- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING
- 9:00 a.m. First Worship
  - Lemonade on the Lawn
- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship
  - Vacation Bible Summer
  - Lemonade on the Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Summer After-Church:
  - Big Read Kick-Off
  - Kids Read Kick-Off

For more events throughout the week at First Presbyterian Church, please check the calendar on our website at [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org), the current issue of *Tidings*, or call the church office 410-730-3545.

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 to: [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

To submit articles for *Tidings*, our monthly newsletter, please send articles by email to: [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) by **Thursday, July 2, 2015** at 9:00 a.m. for the July/August 2015 Issue #7.