



# FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
February 19, 2017

---

## TODAY

**DISCIPLESHIP HOUR TODAY:** *Coffee Fellowship, hosted by Hannah Circle,* following the 10:30 a.m. service in Lyle Buck Hall.

**NEXT WEEK'S DISCIPLESHIP HOUR:** The Youth will be holding the *Spaghetti Lunch and Auction, annual fundraiser,* following the 10:30 a.m. service in Lyle Buck Hall.

**LITURGIST:** Jan (10:30)

**AS PART OF THEIR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION,** members of the 2017 class will be assisting in worship throughout the year. This morning's Confirmands leading worship are Manuel and Leah (10:30)

**USHERS & GREETERS:** Debbie (8:30); Chrissy, Melanie, Olivia (10:30); Laura, Tracy, Jonathan (Tech Crew)

**FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the glory of God by Sharon and Carter in celebration of Gregg's birthday, with love and blessings.  
The flower arranger is Jan.



**THE RED ROSE** in the pulpit today is in celebration of the birth of John William, son of Kristen and Jimmie, brother of Thomas James, born on Sunday, February 12, 2017.

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

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** All worship begins in the Sanctuary.

*At 8:30 a.m.:* After Welcoming One Another—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.

*At 10:30 a.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 to the bags (except the chenille stems/pipe cleaners) and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.

**TODAY HANNAH CIRCLE** will be hosting Coffee Fellowship in place of our monthly meeting. Please join us for fellowship and discussion in Lyle Buck Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

## GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2017

**Please pray for:** Jeff, Darlene, Virgie, Joan, Burta, Dorothy, Jerry, Dottie, Gertrude, Jim, Robert & Vivian, *Bob*, Bunny, Stan, Shirley, Al & Beth

**Bereaved:** Jean, Margaret, Joanne, Nancy and family, Christina and family, Maria, Shirley

**Recovering:** Dave (Heartlands), Web (Bayview)

**Family & Friends:** Jimmy's mother, Marie

**Deaths:** *May the peace of Christ be with Ken and Felicia, in the death of Ken's mother, Mildred Helen.*

**Birth:** *John William on Sunday, February 12, 2017, son of Kristen and Jimmie, brother of Thomas James, grandson of Joann and Craig, and great-grandson of Dora.*

**Celebrate with** *Scott and Kaye in the birth of their granddaughter Ariana Jade on Thursday, February 9, 2017.*

**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 one of the Pastors:  
Morton Harris, 443-824-3768 or Sue Lowcock Harris, 443-824-4305  
with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share.*



### PEOPLE ON THE WAY

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (69 - 155)** lived in what is now western Turkey. He is a link between the apostolic age and the early church of the second century. It is said that he knew John the apostle. And he was, in turn, known by Irenaeus of Lyon and Ignatius of Antioch. When persecutions broke out in the Roman Empire and Christians were charged as subversives and atheists, Polycarp, now an old man, was arrested. When urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?" The magistrate who made the offer was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice. Polycarp was burned at the stake. His martyrdom gave powerful support to the young Christian church.

**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 we pray for *Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain.*

*Pray for:*

- *The immigrants and victims of human trafficking;*
- *Wisdom and guidance in dealing with immigration issues;*
- *Continued struggles against intolerance and hatred.*

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 2017

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

- ✦ Christ Memorial Church in Columbia – *Scott Hoffman, Pastor*
- ✦ Christ our Anchor Church in Annapolis – *Jessica Lowry, Pastor*
- ✦ Christ our King Church in BelAir – *in transition*

## EARTH FORUM

*Building Personal Resilience in Unsettling Times*

*TODAY Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m.*

This month Earth Forum is exploring how people who are active in working for justice can build resilience in times that feel chaotic and unsettling. How do we keep working for environmental justice – and social justice and racial justice and economic justice – when we feel so defeated? We'll gather for focused conversation at 2:00 p.m.; and following some networking, we have an extraordinary opportunity to learn about one of the ways we build resilience from one of our state legislators.

We are pleased to announce that Delegate Eric Ebersole will offer an Emphasis Action workshop focused on being an effective citizen and effective advocate. Delegate Ebersole is an experienced and inspired educator, and a friend of the Earth Forum. We have enjoyed his legislative updates, and look forward to his insights into how we become active and effective participants in the legislative process.

*Technological note: In order to fully participate in Delegate Ebersole's workshop you are encouraged to bring a smart phone/l-pad with your own personal hotspot or data capability, as the church's WiFi capacity will not handle everybody's simultaneous usage!*

## ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

### **FEBRUARY ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL OPTIONS:**

#### **Histories and Mysteries of the Bible – with Bill**

*Through February 26—Room 258*

A look at Hebrew Testament history and how it impacts that of the New Testament with a few stops along the way to look for lost arks & lost tribes. If you missed January – don't miss February!

#### **Confirmation for Adults—with Morton Harris & Sue Lowcock Harris**

*February 19—Room 252*

Adults are invited to take a peek at some of the big ideas our confirmands explore during their year of study. In this short option, we'll look quickly at three aspects of being part of the Presbyterian way of being Christ: How Churches are Organized, Reformed/Presbyterian Theology, and Worship and Sacraments. Morton and Sue will take turns leading this discussion.

### **CONTINUING ALL YEAR:**

#### **The Bible in Depth: Proverbs – facilitated by Doyle will attend Histories and Mysteries of the Bible in January and February.**

They will resume meeting in the Parlor in March.

### **GAMES & CONVERSATIONS – Room 205**

Out of high school and no idea what to do? Home on break? First job and lots of questions? Come join other post-high-school, college, & post-college young adults for a time of fellowship, conversations, and board games as we navigate the perils of being an adult! Facilitated by Brian & Ann.



**GRAB AND GO COFFEE** is available 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. Enjoy!

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR SUE**

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. every week – on Wednesday! In the Parlor

*Current text: Galatians* – We're taking a break from Genesis to read through Paul's letter to Gentile converts who are living in the interior of the Roman Empire. Paul reaches back to the story of Abraham and Sarah to construct some of his theology. This is a lively group and we have great conversations. No experience necessary! All welcome!

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **CHURCH SCHOOL meets every Sunday morning**

Ark & L.I.F.E. – will start in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning

### **CROSSROADS IS COMING!—**

#### **The Rosenwald Schools with Dr. Janet**

*Next Sunday, February 26—in Branch Hall*

Adults, Mid-Highs and Senior Highs are invited to join together for a special Black History Month Crossroads. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Julius Rosenwald, a German-Jewish immigrant who became president and part-owner of Sears Roebuck, partnered with Booker T. Washington to establish over 5,000 schools for African-American children in the 11 states of the former Confederacy plus Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland. Janet, a member of First Church, grew up in North Carolina and attended one of the Rosenwald schools. She will tell us about this extraordinary partnership, and her personal experiences.

## **STUDENT MINISTRY**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY**

#### **TODAY Sunday, February 19**

##### **Mid-High Bowling Night**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Brunswick Zone Normandy Lanes

Come spend time with friends and see who the ultimate bowler is.

Cost: \$3.00 for games and \$3.00 for shoe rental

Bring signed permission postcard and money for snacks

Contact Aja, Marla Youkers, or Brian with any questions

#### **Thursday, February 23**

**Confirmation Class, 6:45-8:30 p.m. Room 258**

#### **SPAGHETTI LUNCH AND AUCTION**

*Next Sunday, February 26, 2017*

If you are interested in helping we need volunteer help and auction donations:

**Volunteer Sign-up:** various jobs mainly on the weekend of the Auction (cashiers, kitchen help, set-up, clean up, etc.)

**Non-food Donations:** This includes gift certificates, tickets, services, baskets, etc.

**Dessert or food donations:** for the silent and live auctions and/or the bake sale.

Visit the website to sign-up to help or donate:

<http://www.firstpreshc.org/spaghetti-lunch-auction/>

**Auction questions:** Kathy

**Lunch questions:** Linda

Or contact the church office

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

### **THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER IS GOING VERY WELL!**

We have had 20-24 guests each night, including one young lady who celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday with cake and presents from us. Tomorrow our guests go on to Kittamaquandi Community Church. We definitely need help Monday morning from 7 am onwards setting the church back to rights. **We need people who can lift heavy items!** Please come if you can.

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers. Please plan to come to the debrief/celebration light breakfast on *Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and also at 11:30 a.m.* in Lyle Buck Hall to let us know what worked well and what can be improved upon.

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is now accepting suggestions for leaders to be elected in the coming year to serve the church. Please pick up a "Suggested Church Leader Candidate" form at the Welcome Desk. Questions, contact Steve Conrad, Chair of Nominating Committee.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE** as Head Ushers, Ushers, Greeters, PowerPoint and Audio Operators for both morning services. Youth as well as adults are invited and training is provided! For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Jonathan St. John at [ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org](mailto:ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org) or go to <http://www.signupgenius.com>, click on "Find a Sign Up" and search for [ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org](mailto:ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org).

### **JUST ONE CAN...PLUS! – February - Fight Against Cold**

This month Deacons salute our church's commitment to the Cold Weather Shelter. Cold weather is difficult enough without a roof over your head, much less warm food. Thousands of people are going hungry in our area despite the hard work of the Howard County Food Bank and other food pantries. Please demonstrate your support of their tireless efforts by donating hearty, nutritious and filling foods that benefit the homeless, the hungry and the struggling.

Suggestions are: *Beans—Dried or Canned, Canned Meat/Tuna/Chicken, Canned Soups, Stews, Pasta, Oatmeal*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **LENTEN SEASON BEGINS:**

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**, *February 28, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**, *March 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.*

### **BRUNCH AT TINO'S TO SUPPORT CHILI COOK-OFF**

*Sunday, March 12, 2017*

Enjoy brunch, from 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. to support First Presbyterian Church's Tip Jar for the Chili Cook-off. Enjoy dinner, from 4:00—10:00 p.m. to support Bridges to Housing Stability's Chili Cook-off. Come to one or both! Either way you are supporting a worthy cause! Ask Woody Collins for more details.

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Every Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School – The Education Hour

Ages 2 through Adult 

*Ark is for children, Age 2 through Grade 1*

*L.I.F.E. is for children, Grade 2 through Grade 5*

*Mid High is for students, Grade 6 through Grade 8*

*Senior High is for students, Grade 9 through Grade 12*

*And a variety of changing classes for Adults*

Infant & Toddler Care is available all morning

Godly Play (age 4 – grade 1) during 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. services

The Worship Bridge (grades 2 – 5) during 10:30 a.m. service

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour

## Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MOMENT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

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

11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour: *Coffee Fellowship*

11:45 a.m. Nominating Committee

2:00 p.m. Earth Forum of Howard County

6:00 p.m. Mid-High Fellowship Bowling Night

## Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

COLD WEATHER SHELTER LAST DAY

PRESIDENT'S DAY | CHURCH OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED

7:00 a.m. Cold Weather Shelter Clean-Up

## Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Year Round Stewardship Committee

## Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship

Tidings Folded

7:00 p.m. Discipleship & Caring Ministries

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

## Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:45 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m. Bulletins Folded

## Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Set-up for Spaghetti Luncheon

## Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

MOMENT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MINUTE FOR MISSION – RUN FOR COFFEE

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

Crossroads

11:30 a.m. Youth Spaghetti Lunch & Auction

6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

To submit articles for Tidings, our monthly newsletter, please send articles by email to: [fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org](mailto:fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org) by **Thursday, March 16, 2017** at 9:00 a.m. for the April 2017 Issue #4.

# First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

## *Conversations on Race*

Please read some statements from group members about why the *Conversations on Race* are important to them.

### **Patti**

*Conversations on Race* has been a rewarding, hopeful and sometimes challenging experience. The topic of race is one that most of us shy away from, but as a Black American I cannot shy away since the very subject matter was born out of my ancestors' existence here in America.

It is rewarding to have a supportive diverse group where words are accepted with love and focused on understanding. The discussions are girded with the belief in one God of all people. Racial bias is recognized and talked through. Although challenging to share one's inner feelings the "Aha" moments are both the most challenging and the most rewarding.

Finally, I find the discussions Hopeful. When you look around the room some meetings you can see people thinking about race and how it affects them, their family and their neighbors. I pray for the group's continuance and influence in the church. I believe we have an opportunity to have congregational growth and the possibility to be an example to other churches.

### **Linda**

Participation in *Conversations on Race* has given me a much deeper understanding and awareness of the extent and impacts of racism which continues to be a significant problem in our country, particularly in the justice system. However, what I value most is hearing about members of our church family's experiences and perspectives. I have come to know and appreciate even more members of our church family of various races and ethnic groups. I am grateful to be able to participate in such a warm and caring group working towards a more equal and just society.

### **Paula**

I am happy to have the opportunity to participate in the *Conversations on Race* at First Pres. As many others in the group have stated, it has been a great opportunity for us to get together and learn about each other. I am hopeful that the active listening we are doing is branching out into our lives outside of church. I believe that these conversations have helped me grow in my ability to live the life Jesus intended.

All are welcome!

Meetings are on the second Sunday of each month at 11:45 a.m.

Grab a cup of coffee and come to the Parlor.

## We want your input!

The *Conversations on Race* group has been working on a mission statement and we want your input! Tell us what you think of our draft statement that was displayed during the coffee hour the group hosted in January.

*As stated in the Confession of 1967, "God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it."*

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County *Conversations on Race* group strives to foster an atmosphere in which all people feel welcome, free to speak knowing they will be heard. Our hope is to create the universal family God desires.



Zentangle © artwork provided by Ginny Lockhart