



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
December 24, 2017

TODAY

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR: TODAY *Sunday, December 24, 2017*

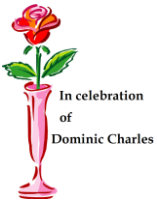
Merry Christmas Morning!! Coffee and cider will be served in Branch Hall after the morning service. Pick up your 2018 offering envelopes while in Branch Hall.

NEXT WEEK'S DISCIPLESHIP HOUR: *Sunday, December 31 in Lyle Buck Hall*

End of Year Brunch - What better way to reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018 by joining us for an End of Year Brunch!? \$2 per person/\$5 per family. All are invited to Lyle Buck Hall for Brunch following the 10:00 a.m. service. Only one worship service on New Year's Eve morning! If you would like to volunteer to help with set-up or cleanup, please contact discipleship@firstpreshc.org.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH: First Presbyterian Church Staff (10:00)

USHERS & GREETERS: Alice, Nancy, Margot (10:00); Laura, Francois, Jonathan (Tech Crew)



THE POINSETTIAS gracing our Sanctuary this Christmas Season have been graciously given by members of the congregation (*please see insert*).

THE RED ROSE in the pulpit today is in celebration of the birth of Dominic Charles, son of Aja and Jacob, born on Thursday, December 21, 2017.

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

At 10:00 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, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

WORSHIP BAGS: Worship bags are available to enhance the worship experience for children. Please return everything to the bags and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Supporting past, present, and future leaders.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering today *Sunday, December 24 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m. – Children's Worship Service

7:00 & 9:00 p.m. – Traditional Festival Service with Candle lighting

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service



GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

Please pray for: Jeff, Mispa, Burta, Marvin, Dave, Ron Duvall, Jerry, Jim, Paul, Shirley, Bette, Shirley, Al & Beth

Non-Resident Members: Frank & Betty, Marion, Joan, Vivian, Russ & Barb, Virginia

Bereaved: Blessing, David, Vivian

Care Centers: *Web (Lorien, Columbia), Dede (Lorien, Columbia)*

Hospitalized: *Stan (St. Agnes)*

Births: *Dominic Charles on Thursday, December 21, 2017, son of Aja and Jacob.*

PCUSA Mission Coworkers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo; Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru; Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Emma Warman in the Philippines. Visit her page, emmaYAVyear.wordpress.com.

*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

In the days following Christmas, the church remembers the cost of walking the way of Jesus, a shadow cast over all of us who follow the star.

- *December 26: Stephen, deacon and martyr.* He was one of the first seven deacons chosen by the apostles to serve those in need. His preaching angered the authorities and he was stoned to death.
- *December 27: John the Apostle.* John was a fisherman, who with his brother James, left his nets to follow Jesus. He is known as the “beloved disciple,” the only one who did not forsake Jesus, who stood at the foot of the cross with Jesus’ mother. Early church tradition names him as author of the fourth Gospel, the book of Revelation, and three letters. Tradition also says that John was the only disciple to live to an old age, exiled by the Emperor Domitian to Patmos.
- *December 28: The Holy Innocents.* On this day, we remember the children of Bethlehem, two years old and younger, who were killed by Herod, who was threatened by reports of the birth of a new king.

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE: On this Christmas Eve, we pray for the global community of Christians, gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are about 2.4 billion Christians in the world, about one third of the global population, in three main branches of Christian faith: Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant.

OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2017

We pray for the mission we share as part of the PCUSA.

We remember all PCUSA Mission Coworkers who are far from home this Christmas. In particular, we pray this week for:

- *Jeff and Christi Boyd in Kinshasa, Congo.* Jeff is the Regional Liaison for Central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea), and Christi is the Coordinator for Women and Children’s Interests, working in Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Madagascar, Rwanda, and South Sudan.
- *Jenny and Jed Koball in Peru.* Jed serves as the facilitator for the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s Joining Hands Peru, and Jenny is the coordinator for the Young Adult Volunteer program in Peru.
- *Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Emma Warman in the Philippines.* Emma works with a church-based organization called Little Children of the Philippines, and at a domestic violence shelter called Casa Esperanza.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

Church School for Children, Youth and Adults will go on a two week Christmas break on *December 24 and 31, 2017*. This will allow teachers to enjoy attending Sunday morning worship service with their family. Nursery & Godly Play will be available. The ARK, L.I.F.E., Mid Highs, Senior Highs and Adults will reconvene on *January 7, 2018*. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and thanks to all our Church School teachers and leaders.

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION HOUR will be on break **December 24 & 31**

See you on January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

The Bible in Depth: Ecclesiastes *facilitated by Doyle*

Continues all year—all are welcome to join in at any time—Clark Parlor

Games & Conversations - post-high-school, college, & post-college young adults

Facilitated by Brian & Ann - Room 205

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR SUE

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Wednesday, every week

No Class on Wednesday, December 27. See you on January 3, 2018.

We will continue studying Exodus together.

This is a lively group and we have great conversations. No experience necessary!
Everyone welcome!

STUDENT MINISTRIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

Senior High Fellowship, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Wednesday, January 3, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Snow Ball for Senior Highs

Saturday, January 6, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class

Is on Christmas Break! Remember to do your Christmas Break project!

Next class is *Thursday, January 4, 2018, 6:45-8:30 p.m.*



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

DOOR STOP DELIVERY: Are you planning to be at the 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve? Put a nice touch to your Christmas by taking one of the beautiful poinsettias to share with a member of our church community this holiday week. The list of members for delivery will be at the Welcome Center after the service. Please stop by and choose someone to deliver a poinsettia to. The Deacons thank you for the support of this ministry.

THE MITTEN TREE will return in January! With the cold weather approaching, please remember the children in Howard County who many not have adequate warm outer wear for the months ahead. Place your donations of new or gently used hats, mittens/gloves and scarves for all ages on the Mitten Tree located in the Upper Commons starting *January 7, 2018*. Thank you.

JUST ONE CAN PLUS!!! December - POWERFUL Food

The Board of Deacons' campaign in December will focus on donations of POWERFUL protein-rich food for our continuing efforts against Hunger in Howard County. Imagine how hard it can be to have a Happy Holiday when you barely have enough to eat. Recommended items that have the power to bring a smile to a child's face are: Peanut Butter, Beans—Dried or Canned, Canned Meat/Tuna/Chicken, Canned Soups, Infant Formula, Baby & Toddler Foods. Please leave your contributions in the "Just One Can" wooden cart in the Upper Commons. As always, the generous support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING AND SO IS THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER!

First Presbyterian will host the shelter from **Monday evening, February 5, 2018 until Monday morning, February 19, 2018**. We need lots of volunteers to cook dinner, stay overnight, do laundry, clean the sleeping areas and provide company to our guests each evening. Please see the sign-up board and list of requested donations in the Lower Commons. For any questions, contact the church office.

DISCIPLESHIP HOURS

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR is every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Here's a look at January 2018

Sunday, January 7th – Coffee Fellowship in Lyle Buck Hall

Ruth Circle is hosting coffee fellowship.

Sunday, January 14th – Martin Luther King Sunday in Lyle Buck Hall

Conversation on Race is hosting Martin Luther King Sunday fellowship. Learn about the books we have read and some of the plans the group has for the coming year. We look forward to sharing our conversation with everyone! Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Sunday, January 21st – Chili Tasting in Lyle Buck Hall

Join us for the "Hotter than Thou" Chili Tasting. Vote for your favorite Chili by making a donation. Proceeds go to the Bridges for Housing Stability that prevents homelessness in Howard County. The Chili with the most donations will represent First Pres. HC at the "Hotter than Thou" Chili Tasting finals on *Sunday, March 11, 2018* at the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City.

It's that time of year again when we share our favorite chilies and vote with our tips to find our 2018 Chili Cook-Off winning recipe. The winning recipe will be supported by our team to compete alongside 20 other congregations from around the county in the eighth annual "Hotter Than Thou" Chili Cook-Off on *Sunday, March 11th*.

But first we have to find our most delicious First Presbyterian Recipe!

We need 10 chefs to make their favorite chili recipe and everyone else to come on down to Lyle Buck Hall after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 21st with your tip money in hand and enjoy a delicious lunch with your friends. All monies raised go to support Bridges to Housing Stability that prevents homelessness and promotes awareness for affordable housing in Howard County.

Please contact Steve Conrad at stconrad@comcast.net or flag him down at church if you can help.

Sunday, January 28th – Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES this morning in Branch Hall.

BULLETIN INFORMATION for Sunday, December 31 is due on *Wednesday, December 27.* Please send to fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The building and church office hours are:

Closed: Monday-Wednesday, December 25-27, 2017.

Open: *Thursday, December 28, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and*

Friday, December 29, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Closed: Monday, January 1, 2018 for New Year's Day

TIDINGS JANUARY 2018 ISSUE #1 FOLDING AND MAILING DATE

Friday, January 5, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. All hands welcome!

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE resumes on *January 7, 2018*

8:30 a.m. Worship | 10:30 a.m. Worship | 11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour

Church School - The Education Hour - ages 2 through Adult resumes on Sunday, *January 7, 2018* at 9:30 a.m.

"GRATEFUL GIVING" - Annual Response Program

With your help we can meet our goal before the New Year! Send in your estimate of giving card now.

END OF YEAR GIVING - Considering an end of year donation? Make First Presbyterian Church your charity of choice! Gifts postmarked or received on or before December 31 are tax deductible for the 2017 fiscal year.

2017 ANNUAL REPORTS are due ***Friday, January 5, 2018.*** Please send your reports to fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org or leave them in mailbox #4.

Sunday Evening Quiet Time, First Sunday of the Month

Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Come for 30 minutes of Quiet Time.



COORDINATING COUNCIL will meet on Wednesday, January 3 & 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 258.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, January 24, 2018


Come celebrate the continued "Joy" of the holiday season with the Presbyterian Women, *Wednesday, January 24th* at 6:30 p.m. in Lyle Buck Hall. We will have a catered dinner, dessert and entertainment. Tickets are \$20.00 each and will go on sale Sunday, December 31st in the Lower Commons. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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, December 24th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NO CHURCH SCHOOL | CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour – Hot Beverages

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service



Monday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26th

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27th

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED

Thursday, December 28th

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING OPEN 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Friday, December 29th

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING OPEN 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

11:30 a.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, December 30th

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 31st

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour – End of Year Brunch



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, 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 by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

To submit articles for Tidings, our monthly newsletter, please send articles by email to: fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org by **Thursday, January 11, 2018** at 9:00 a.m. for the February 2018 Issue #2.