



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
March 25, 2018

TODAY

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR: *March 25 – Snack Food BINGO Fellowship in Branch Hall*

It's time again for another great Bingo Party! Kids and Adults of all ages meet us in Branch Hall for some refreshments and rousing BINGO games. White Elephant gifts for the winners. Coffee Fellowship hosted by Ruth Circle in the Upper Commons.

NEXT WEEK: *April 1 – Easter Breakfast served from 7:00-10:30 a.m. in Buck Hall*

LITURGISTS: Alice (8:30); Mike (10:30)

USHERS & GREETERS: Debbie, Angela (8:30); Chrissy, Mispa, Margot (10:30); Laura, Laura, Tracy, Jonathan (Tech Crew)

THANKS TO OUR LITURGICAL DANCERS dancing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

WE LIGHT A REMEMBRANCE CANDLE this morning to remember Bill who died on March 23, 2016.

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 and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS will not meet the next two Sundays, April 1 and 8. See you on April 15!

TODAY, PALM SUNDAY, you received a Chamaedorea Palm that was ordered from Eco-Palms. This organization provides environmentally and socially responsible palms for churches and community groups meaning that they were sustainably harvested and fairly traded. Many of the palm producing forest areas are important "biosphere reserves" and tend to be the home of poorer areas of rural populations. Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests and gatherers protect forest areas where the palms grow. A typical Eco-Palm is harvested in the forest by men and processed by women to provide direct benefit to the community. The proceeds they receive increase families' financial stability and are used to send young girls to school, employ women, and build community centers. By supporting Eco-Palms in our service today, we have contributed to improving the livelihoods of people living near the forests and supported sustainable forest management.

THE PALM CROSS you will receive today at the conclusion of worship are hand-woven by villagers near Masasi, Tanzania. They are made from dried leaves of the dwarf palm, *hyphaena coriacia*, and last a lifetime.

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25, 2018

Please pray for: Burta, Marvin, Janet, Dave, Ron, Jerry, Binwi, Jim, Paul, Dede, Becky, Jimmie, Shirley, Liam, Shirley, Al & Beth

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

Bereaved: Blessing, David, Vivian

Care Center: Web

Recovering from Surgery: *Ruth, Catherine, Jonathan*

Friends & Family: *Woody's uncle, Buddy*

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

March 25 is the day the church celebrates *The Annunciation*. Also known as Lady Day, it commemorates the announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary by the angel Gabriel. The angel said that God would become incarnate, not in the rich and famous, but in a poor, unknown teenager, who knew herself to be among the lowliest. The Gospel of Luke puts a song on her lips that proclaims the reign of God bringing down the powerful from their thrones, lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things. See Luke 1:42, 48-53. The Annunciation became a church festival around the fifth century.

We also remember: March is Women's History Month! Who are the women who inspire your faith? Who are the women who brought you to faith?

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 *Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia*. *Pray for:*

- *The religious freedom and ecumenical cooperation that is growing;*
- *Greater respect for the Roma people and others who are marginalized and who lack adequate livelihoods in these lands;*
- *Welcoming and engaging those of other faiths and ethnicities.*

For more information about the Prayer Cycle, visit the website of the World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org

OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2018

We pray for the mission of our congregation.

La Union Maya Quiche Boca Costa Presbytery: *Iglesia Horeb in the village of Chocola*

FIRN is a Howard County mission partner that empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities. FIRN provides immigration counseling and citizenship classes, interpreting and translation services, employment counseling, English tutoring, information and referrals, and a variety of workshops. www.firnonline.org

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

Creative Ways to Experience Lent:

Poetry and Prayer - with Angela - March 25 – Room 252

Angela will share poetry that can help us create sacred space where our hearts and minds can slow down and meet God. She will also use guided methods to create our own poetry.

Storytime with the Environmental Curmudgeon - taught by Bill

March 25, 2018 – Room 258

A strange blend of Bible study, environmental science lecture & bedtime story.

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



GRAB AND GO COFFEE is available on Sunday mornings 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 Wednesday, every week

We are studying Exodus together. Come join us! 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, March 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

FOLLOWING THE RIVER

THE EARTH FORUM IS GOING OUTDOORS TO “FOLLOW THE RIVER”! Come see the Earth Forum’s “Following the River” table in the Lower Commons and be a part of the Earth Forum’s new outdoor program this spring. Select a couple of outdoor activities from the array of more than 15 outdoor events. Not only will you help improve the watershed and see our rivers in new and interesting ways, but you will also have a chance to enjoy time with others who care for the earth and are working to build a community of Earth Stewards. The activities will also be posted on Sign up Genius on the church website, for your convenience.

- **Sunday, April 8** -an hour long Bike Excursion which earns a leaf. For health of the planet and your health, join our bike guided ride on Columbia pathways and roads using bridges and tunnels. Howard County Park and Rec pathway map will be given to up to 20 people who ride and will be held rain or shine...be prepared! HELMETS SHOULD BE WORN! Meet at Blandair Park at the playground with restrooms at 1:45 p.m. led by Evelyn and Stacy.
- **Sunday, April 15 Bike Rodeo following the Earth Forum** - Bike to Earth Forum and earn a leaf for your booklet, then stay for the Bike Rodeo to earn another leaf. The Bike Rodeo will consist of several stations where you go for 10-15 minutes to learn and practice aspects of biking and bike safety. Bike and helmet checks will be done and information about MD bike safety and the HoCo Bike Master Plan will be available. PLEASE WEAR BIKE HELMETS! If you don't bike to Earth Forum you can still come to the Rodeo... Bike Rodeo will be held in the parking lot at 3:45 p.m. Led by Evelyn and Stacy. We are seeking 5 people to assist at the bike skill stations.

LENTEN SEASON OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, Sunday, March 25....Palm Sunday, we will take up the denomination-wide “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering. Please read the flier that is in the today’s bulletin and think about helping others around the world with this special offering.



TAKE HOLY WEEK HOME TODAY

Come to the Upper Commons after the 10:30 a.m. worship service *today* to assemble a “Holy Week Box.” The box contains simple objects which, along with scripture, will help you tell the story of Holy Week at home. Questions, contact Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Children, youth and adults are invited to take time this holy season to visit the Spirituality Center set up in Branch Hall by Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education. The Spirituality Center is a collection of prayer stations which make use of different materials to help expand our understanding and experience of prayer. Child-friendly stations are also be available. The Spirituality Center will be open daily until *Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018*.

2018 JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM - Our annual discipline of caring for our bodies is in motion during Lent and we are on our way to Jerusalem. Everybody can participate! 20 minutes of sustained activity equals one mile. 2,000 steps equals one mile. Reporting slips are at the Welcome Desk. *We added 1100 miles and we are in Palagruza, Croatia – a small island archipelago in the Adriatic. Make sure you add all your snow-shoveling cardio this week! See you in Jerusalem!*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

VOLUNTEERS needed on Easter Sunday, April 1

- ✦ NURSERY & GODLY PLAY HELPERS needed at the 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. worship services. Contact: Virginia Callegary, vcalleary@firstpreshc.org. Visit www.firstpreshc.org/nursery to sign up to volunteer.
- ✦ FIRE USHERS for the Sunrise Service on April 1st, between 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. tend the fire, carry chairs, stay with the fire and put it out, hand out bulletins, etc.
- ✦ EASTER BREAKFAST HELPERS needed to cook, serve or clean-up
- ✦ LOTS OF HELP NEEDED on **Saturday, March 31 - CLEAN UP DAY FOR EASTER & DURING HOLY WEEK** - carry ladders, make breakfast, etc.
Are you able to help? Contact: Woody Collins, sexton@firstpreshc.org

TRIVIA NIGHT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!

Saturday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Lyle Buck Hall

\$20 for adults, \$10 for kids 12-18

All proceeds to benefit the Guatemala University Scholarship Program. Look for the flyer in the Lower Commons and at the same time sign up to play or contact Mandy or the church office.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 5K FAMILY RUN FOR COFFEE!

The 9th Annual Run for Coffee is *Saturday, April 28, 2018* at 10:00 a.m. at Hopewell Park, Columbia. Run, walk, sponsor a friend, volunteer, or help us identify corporate sponsors. Companies may offer matching gifts. Sign up in the Lower Commons or visit: <http://www.firstpreshc.org/familyrunforcoffee>

MISSION TRIP TO TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, June 3—Friday, June 8, 2018

All able bodies are welcome! If you are interested please contact Pat or the church office by next Sunday, April 1.

JUST ONE CAN...PLUS! – March - Breakfast

Let's help the hungry start the morning right with a good breakfast. Our special request for March is donations of cereal (including instant oatmeal), which is the most requested food item month after month in food pantries.

Please leave your regular contribution - plus boxes of cereal and oatmeal - in the "Just One Can" cart across from the Welcome Center in the upper narthex. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 25

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – Return Fish Banks

Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:30 p.m. Simple Meal in Lyle Buck Hall

7:30 p.m. Long Table Communion in the Sanctuary | Nursery Care available

Good Friday, March 30

12:00 noon Midday Prayer in the Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service, the Service of Shadows, in the Sanctuary

Nursery Care available

Easter Sunday, April 1

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Woodlands Chapel - Bring bells to ring!

7:00 – 10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch in Lyle Buck Hall

8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Identical Easter Worship Services with Communion

Childcare in our Nursery & Godly Play available at 8:30 & 10:30

No Church School; No Worship Bridge

Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Quiet Time, First Sunday of the Month

Unable to make it to worship on Easter morning?

Come at 5:00 p.m. for 30 minutes of Quiet Time and Communion.

Easter Monday, April 2

The Church Office and Building will be closed.



GENERAL INFORMATION

HVAC UPDATE: Work will begin on April 2. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, we have received \$4,140 in donations against our goal of \$40,000. Remember to mark your contribution "HVAC", there are envelopes in the pew racks for this purpose.


THE LUNCH BUNCH is having its next gathering at *Ma's Kettle in Savage, MD* on *Tuesday, March 27* 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. Want to carpool? Contact the church office.

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, March 25th

PALM SUNDAY | HOLY WEEK BEGINS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

8:30 a.m. Worship

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

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour = BINGO & Fellowship

Monday, March 26th

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 27th

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 28th

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Knitting Ministry

6:00 p.m. Senior High Supper

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 29th

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. Simple Supper

7:30 p.m. Long Table Communion in Sanctuary

Friday, March 30th

GOOD FRIDAY

11:30 a.m. Bulletins Folded

12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer for Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Saturday, March 31st

9:00 a.m. Clean Up Work Day for Easter

Sunday, April 1st

EASTER SUNDAY | RESURRECTION OF THE LORD | COMMUNION

DEACONS COMPASSION FUND OFFERING | NAME TAG SUNDAY

NO CHURCH SCHOOL | NO WORSHIP BRIDGE

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Woodlands Chapel

7:00-10:30 Easter Breakfast in Lyle Buck Hall

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

5:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Quiet Time with Communion

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, April 12, 2018** at 9:00 a.m. for the May 2018 Issue #5.