



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
March 22, 2020

TODAY

Today, during the coronavirus alert, we are **Live Streaming worship at 10:30 a.m.** so stay home and stay healthy and join us on line. **Share the Peace, Spread the Word, not the virus.**

ON-LINE WORSHIP IS A NEW EXPERIENCE. Here's a few ideas about how to make it more meaningful. To enhance the audio, use headphones, earbuds or a small Bluetooth speaker. Gather some items for a home worship space. It might be your coffee table or kitchen table or desk – wherever you are sitting to watch/participate in the Live Stream. Include a candle and matchstick so you can light the candle in your home when Pastor Sue lights the candle in the Sanctuary. You could place some purple cloth – for Lent – under the candle. A copy of the bulletin is a good idea – either a hard copy that you print or a soft copy on another device – so you can refer to it and join in the liturgy while you watch. Are the daffodils blooming in your garden? Put one or two in a bud vase for your home worship space. Mark the text beforehand in a Bible, so you can follow the reading (the text will also be printed in the online bulletin.) Other ideas? Take a photo of your home worship space and send it to sharris@firstpreshc.org.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to the Live Stream Worship Team.
Tech Crew: Jean Robert, Jonathan

WE WELCOME Nelda Clelland as our guest musician this morning. Thanks to Nelda for being part of the Live Stream Worship Team.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Elaine Bishop.

ALL IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES, STUDY GROUPS, MEETINGS AND SERVICES ARE CANCELLED THROUGH April 30, 2020. Some groups will meet via ZOOM or other online apps. The Church Staff will be in the church office, with limited hours, but the building will be locked. So call us if you need us, we're here for you. We have a bunch of people who will be happy to bring you groceries and medicines. Keep washing your hands! Stay healthy!

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT FOR KIDS AND THEIR GROWN-UP FRIENDS.

Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. join Pastor Sue as she gets everything ready for Sunday worship. She'll have stuff for everyone to do to get ready – maybe some art, maybe learn or practice a song, maybe a home scavenger hunt. Come and see.

WORSHIP, ART AND MUSIC NEWS



MUSIC MINISTRY

Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir rehearsals are cancelled until further notice. Questions? Contact the church office.

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020

Please pray for: Burta, Dave, Phil, Dylan, Mil, Rose, Carol, *Betty*, Doris, Shirley, Shirley, Beth

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

Friends & Family: *Tom's mother, Mary*; Andrew, Rosemary, Peter, Aaron, Tim, Emily, David

Celebrate with: *Kathy and Eric on the birth of their new grandson Simon Wilson born on March 11, 2020. Proud parents are David and Katie.*

Recovering from Surgery: Donna, Sarah, Emma, Dan

Bereaved: Jeff & Natalie; Jimmy's Family, Alice

Care Center: Marvin, Reva, Jim

Seminarians: Blake, Emma

PCUSA Mission Coworkers: Jeff & Christi Boyd in Congo, www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd; Jed & Jenny Koball in Peru, www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball

Members and friends who are staying home during the Corona Virus outbreak.

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

Viola Luizzo (April 11, 1925 – March 25, 1965) was an activist, a housewife and mother of five, a member of First Unitarian Church of Detroit, who was killed by four Ku Klux Klan members who fired into her car as she transported African American participants from Montgomery back to Selma following the successful Selma to Montgomery March. Countless terrific parents heard King's call for Americans to join demonstrators in Alabama after the violence on "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965. Most stayed safely home. In the mid 1960s, it was all but unthinkable for a white mother to answer the call. Viola's death had significant impact on furthering civil rights legislation. Her daughter later reflected, "She actually believed it when Christ said that the suffering and needy are our people. Mom saw all other human beings as her people." Five decades after her death she was awarded the Fred L. Shuttlesworth award from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

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

We thank God for:

- The religious freedom and ecumenical cooperation that is growing.

We pray for:

- Greater respect for the Roma people and other 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 2020

We pray for the churches and pastors of Baltimore Presbytery.

- ✦ Faith Church in Baltimore City – *Mary Speers, Interim Pastor*
- ✦ Fallston Church in Harford County – *Kimberly Secrist Ashby, Pastor*

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED today *Sunday, March 22.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM – with Pastor Sue
9:30 – 11:00 a.m., During Lent we are studying *The Servant Songs of Isaiah*
Please don't come to the church! Enjoy Bible Study in the comfort of your home.
Please email the church office, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org or
Sue, sharris@firstpreshc.org if you would like to receive a ZOOM link. We'll send
the link out on Tuesday. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL is CANCELLED until further notice.

CONFIRMATION CLASS is CANCELLED

The Confirmation Dinner and meeting with Session on Thursday, March 26 and
Confirmation Sunday, March 29 will be rescheduled after the virus alert has
passed.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

MID-HIGHS, SENIOR HIGHS AND PARENTS –

Let's stay connected through *GroupMe* and *Remind* text messages.

Email Virginia Callegary, vcallegary@firstpreshc.org if you would like to be
added to the text message lists.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

COVID-19 TEAM – Interested in assisting people with getting groceries,
medicines, etc. as needed? Contact Pastor Sue, sharris@firstpreshc.org

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. There is a limit of
one visit per family per month to the Howard County Food Bank, where the
quantities given out must be strictly rationed to meet demand.

Keep collecting! **If you need to bring items to the church please place your items
in the storage box by the back entrance (near the mail box)**, otherwise save it
up for the next couple weeks.

Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

LENTEN STUDY IS CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF LENT BUT KEEP READING THE BOOK!

We'll pick up where we left off when the virus alert has passed. We are reading and discussing the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus...A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. You can order the book on Amazon, ISBN-13: 978-1-5018-6955-6. Be sure to order the book and not the leader's guide.



EASTER LILIES – We are only ordering 20 Easter Lilies. Thank you for the ten orders that have been received. If you would like to dedicate one of the other ten Easter lilies please contact Caroline Smith, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org or call 410-730-3545. First come first served!

The lilies will be in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday - see them via our Live Stream Easter Service.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL FOR ADULTS

This year we have a Lenten devotional for adults called *Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent* based on poetry from *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems*. We also invite you to participate in a discussion of the devotional in our Facebook group called *FPC-HC Devotional Discussion Group*. Pick up a soft copy from Virginia Callegary, vcalleary@firstpreshc.org and visit the church's Facebook page for more info on the discussion group. (www.facebook.com/firstpreshc/)

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL FOR FAMILIES

This year's Lenten Devotional called *An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on Giving* includes weekly devotionals, activity pages, and coloring pages for families to use together as they journey through Lent. Using Jesus' teaching, children will reflect on why we give, what we give and the power of our gifts.

LENTEN CREATION CARE CALENDAR 2020 - You're invited to join us in taking on a Lenten Creation care practice. Each day calls on us to take a different action and each of these actions will help to preserve God's great gift of Creation. Calendars, produced by Interfaith Power & Light and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake are available on the church website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

IT'S A NEW WORLD! Virginia, Morton and Sue will be having ZOOM office hours while we're practicing social distancing. Links will be posted on the Website and Facebook. Stop in and say hi! Bring a cup of coffee.

ZOOM OFFICE HOURS for staff:

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Virginia will be in Zoom

Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Sue will be in Zoom

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Morton will be in Zoom

ZOOM SESSION MEETING, *Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.*

Session members watch your email for a link to the ZOOM meeting.

THE 5K FAMILY RUN FOR COFFEE has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Please watch for details. Contact Becky Torrance or Pat Curran for more information.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION is postponed to ***Sunday, May 17, 2020.***

THE LUNCH BUNCH on **Tuesday, March 31st** has been cancelled.

COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE TRAINING DAY and ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS in Washington DC has been cancelled for 2020.

BRICK ORDERS! Has ordering a brick to be placed in the front pathway been on your to-do list? Now's your chance to place an order. Contact the office for an order form. Contact: Margot Watson.

PER CAPITA FOR 2020 is \$36.00. The "Per Capita" is each church member's share of the expenses of the larger church – the Presbytery, the Synod and General Assembly of the PCUSA. Our congregation is required to pay this amount for each member of the church. *Have you paid your per capita? Thank you to those 82 people who have paid already!*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Since we can't pass the offering plate as usual, many people have asked about other ways to make their contributions and pledges. Here are some ways we can continue to give:

1. **PayPal** – You could contribute immediately online through PayPal. This works even if you do not have a PayPal account. There is a button on the church website. When you click the button, it will take you to a page that clearly says "First Presbyterian Church of Howard County: General Giving."
2. **Automatic payments through your regular bank account** -- if your bank provides an automatic payment service, you could set it up to send a contribution to the church as a payment.
3. **U. S. Mail** – This way still works! You could mail checks to First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD 21045. Checks are delivered to a strong, locked mailbox on the church premises.
4. **Automatic bank drafts by completing the church's Electronic Giving Form** – you could fill out and return an Electronic Giving Form (available on the church website). Mail or bring the completed form to the church office. This form gives permission for a bank draft on the account you specify, in the amount and frequency that you specify.
5. **Stop and phone** – If you prefer to bring your contribution by the church in person, you can call the church office when you arrive. If anyone is in, we'll come down and meet you at the door.
6. **Letter Drop** – If no one is in the office, you can drop a message or envelope in the Letter Drop, a mail slot in the bell-tower door (near the picnic tables in front). This method is only in effect during the virus emergency, because there are only a handful of people who come inside.

We are exploring other ways of contributing that will be safe, easy and convenient. Those will be included on this list as they become operational. Thank you for all the ways you support the Church!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed

THE BUILDING IS CLOSED BUT THE
CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

ZOOM LINKS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FIRSTPRESHC.ORG

Sunday, March 22nd

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed

Tuesday, March 24th

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Virginia Callegary

Wednesday, March 25th

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study via ZOOM

2:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Pastor Sue Lowcock Harris

Thursday, March 26th

1:00 p.m. ZOOM Office Hours for Pastor Morton Harris

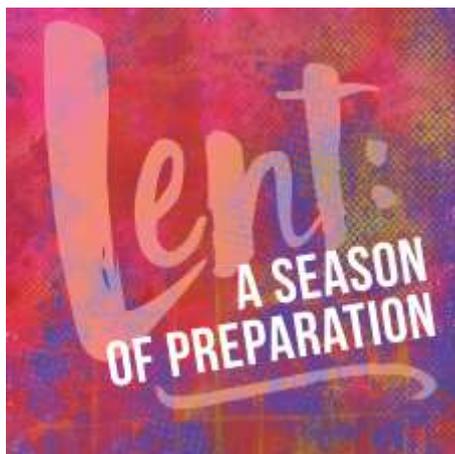
3:00 p.m. Facebook Live Worship Prep

7:00 p.m. ZOOM Session Meeting (link will be emailed)

Sunday, March 29th

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed



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 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the May 2020 Issue #5.**