



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
March 23, 2025

TODAY

8:30 a.m. EARLY SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

10:30 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP (in-person and livestream)

Our in-person and livestream congregations share worship together. This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet. If worshipping in-person, you may appear in our livestream. If joining from home, the link for worship will open around 10:20 a.m. You can find this week's worship materials on the website:

www.firstpreshc.org

CHILDREN BEGIN WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY. After the children's prayer, children ages 4-7 may go to Godly Play with Ms. Kathy Moore. Older children may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to Worship Bridge.

Worship bags for children are available in the Upper Commons.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by the Margot & Bob in honor of our grandson Maxwell's first birthday; and by Janice in memory of parents, Blair and Betty.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Akua

Ushers & Greeters: Chrissy

Tech Crew: Barry, Margot

CHURCH OFFICE

Someone is phishing with emails purporting to be from Pastor Ken. His two email addresses are kpage@firstpreshc.org and revkenpage@gmail.com. Anything else is a hoax. If you are unsure if you are hearing from Ken, give him a call.

WHERE'S OUR CHURCH STAFF? *Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus* is on vacation through Sunday, March 23. She will be back in the office on Monday, March 24, 2025.

EASTER LILIES

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter.

The cost is \$25.00 per plant.

Deadline to order is Tuesday, April 1.

To order Easter Lilies go to SignUpGenius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/EasterLilies2025>

Easter lilies can be picked up at the church after the last Easter morning worship service on Sunday, April 20

– **OR** – leave your lily to be delivered by the Deacons.

For more information or questions, contact:

Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus,

churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

or Jan



PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025

PRINTED ON 3/12/25

Please pray for: Lea, Dave, Dylan, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Maria, Jim, Dename and Family, Chuck, Karin, Gaunt & Bush Family, Dot, Janet, David

And also for: everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House.

Non-Resident Members: Frank and Betty, Barb

Friends & Family: Matt, Susan, Judy, Gudeta, Anne & Nate and family, Evelyn, Bruce, Bart, Joe, The Beisler Family, Roy, Pastor Juan, Adolfo, family & friends of Jacob, Jennifer

Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Nana, Jim, Ruth, Dot

Bereaved: Dave, Bob; Joe & Marla and family, Natalie and Jeff, Wayne and Sharon, McKissick Family, Hilda and family, Jan and family, Lois, Agnes & Family, Blondell, Wade & Monta, Amanda, Margaret, Catherine and family, Anita and family, Kathy & family, Doyle & family

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

Please contact Pastor Ken Page, kpage@firstpreshc.org or 602-799-7643 with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share or in case of an emergency or to arrange homebound Communion. Friends & Family names are listed for 8 weeks unless requested otherwise.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 5th -12th graders are invited to our next youth group which is on Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Bring your own dinner. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 2025, 9:00 am until Noon

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School for three year-olds through current fourth graders. Cost is \$20/child (max \$50/family). Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

If you'd like to bring snacks one Sunday, please check the SignUpGenius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACAFA2BA0FCC52-51327460-coffee>



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP HOURS on Sundays

following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service in Lyle Buck Hall

* Sunday, March 23, 2025 will be hosted by Deacons (Thanks for their regular support)

* Sunday, March 30, 2025 will be held in celebration of the Confirmation Class

We thank all who have volunteered!

DEACONS NEWS

MARCH Food Drive for Howard Community College Students

We invite you to join us by donating the following most-needed items. You can place them in the Black & Yellow Bins labeled for HCC in the Harris Upper Commons. We will be delivering at the end of March, if you would like to help or have questions please contact Chrissy. The last day to bring food to the church is March 30, 2025.

Shelf-Stable Needed Items for HCC Food Pantry Spring 2025

*Urgent: Cereal, Snacks, Spices and Condiments

Vegetables (no-sodium or low-sodium): Canned vegetables, Tomato products (paste, sauce) Mushrooms, Olives

Grains: Spaghetti, whole wheat spaghetti, Cereal with under 11g of added sugar (whole grain as first ingredient preferred)

Proteins: Low sodium beans, Dried lentils and soup mixes

Mixed Dishes: Ready made meals; Lower sodium soups (cream of mushroom, soups for baking), Pasta sauce (low sodium)

Beverages: Shelf-stable dairy alternatives, Tea, Coffee

Snacks - healthy snacks: Plain dried fruits and nuts in small packages, & Popcorn, pretzels, and chips in small packages

Other Items: Spices and seasonings, Cooking oils, Gluten-free products

Personal Care: Bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, Lotion for dry skin, Cleaning and laundry supplies, Can openers

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RUTH CIRCLE IS CALLING ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF COLLEGE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Ruth Circle is sending our students a gift card and a note of support. To participate, please provide your student's name and address to Lisa by Sunday, March 23rd.

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH facilitated by Doyle – every Sunday – *Parlor*

A DIVE INTO ECUMENISM: AN EXPLORATION OF OTHER FAITHS

taught by Carol

Sunday, March 23 in Branch Hall

March 23 – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: This presentation will explore the basic tenets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and review the worldwide humanitarian work which is carried out by its members in conjunction with local and international organizations.

Carol serves as a Washington, D.C. FamilySearch Center Coordinator. She volunteered as a Genealogy Aide at the National Archives in Washington, DC for ten years and has worked with FamilySearch on several initiatives.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND YOUR NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS – HOW TO ALLY WITH IMMIGRANTS

Sunday, March 30 in Branch Hall

First Pres is proud to host an attorney and a representative from the Luminus Network, formerly FIRN, talking about Constitutional Rights, the latest updates on the US immigration system, and how nonimmigrants can side with their immigrant neighbors.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY – *Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar

This Lent, step into a journey of faith that challenges injustice, disrupts systems of oppression, and calls us into deeper love and action. Weekly discussion prompts will be posted in the FPC-HC Devotional Discussion Group on Facebook (use the QR code to join the group). We will meet on Sunday, April 6 at 7 pm on Zoom to discuss the book.



WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

Lenten Preaching Journey with Pastor Ken – through April 16, 2025

Each Wednesday in Lent, Pastor Ken Page will lead a study of the scriptures for the following Sunday. You're invited to join the Wednesday Morning study group as we explore the sermon texts with Pastor Ken, and get a "sneak preview" of the upcoming sermon!

Evening – *Life Without Lack* by Dallas Willard – with Rev. Andrea – Wednesdays at 7 pm through April 23

Life Without Lack is a look at the extraordinary claims of one of the Bible's most familiar passages, Psalm 23.

Register in advance for the Zoom link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDjiqHjXW>

THE KIPTON PROJECT

Please Help FPCHC collect plastic bags, film, and other items towards our 1,000 pound goal. Trex will award the church with a bench made from recycled plastics. Please check the list of acceptable plastics below before donating:

<https://nextrex.com/view/educate>. Please drop your items in Lower Commons.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan or Woody Collins.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: April 6 & May 4. Here's the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/flowers2025>
The flowers cost \$35. Please send a check to the church office or via PayPal.
Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Genià, our intergenerational instrumental ensemble will resume rehearsals in preparation for Palm Sunday. Rehearsals are March 27, April 3 and April 10 from 6:30-7:25 pm. We will be playing in worship on April 13th. Genià is open to instrumentalists who are high school age and up. If you have questions or would like to join in the fun, please speak to Margaret or email her: mmcgillivray@firstpreshc.org.

MISSION

2025 FUNdraising & GAMES for Coffee Microgrants

Changing lives one coffee plant at a time for over 15 years.

Our 16th annual fundraiser for the **Guatemala Coffee Microgrants Project** is coming up! Join us at **First Pres** on **Saturday, April 26th from 2:00 – 4:00pm** for an afternoon of **fun, food, and fellowship**, including a walking course, pickleball, cornhole, GaGa ball, board games and bingo, **and support our Mayan brothers and sisters in our partner presbytery in Guatemala.**

Use the link below to register & make donations or stop by the table in the Harris Upper Commons. **Register by April 10th to be sure you get the t-shirt size you want.** Registration will remain open until the event, but youth and extended adult size t-shirts cannot be guaranteed after April 10th. Questions? Email us at coffeemicrogrants@firstpreshc.org

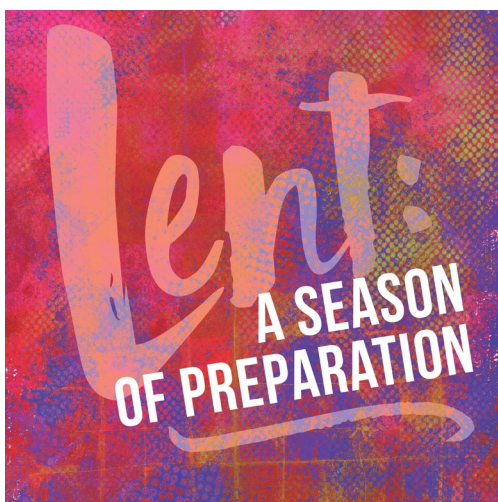
<https://www.firstpreshc.org/event-details-registration/fundraising-games-for-coffee-microgrants>

SAVE THE DATE - PDA Mission Trip to Western North Carolina

Please block your calendars for the Week of May 11-17 for a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Mission Trip to Western North Carolina for the purpose of rebuilding homes destroyed and damaged by Hurricane Helene. Exact travel dates, site and cost, etc. are being finalized. The plan is to work out of the PDA site in Black Mountain or Asheville. Let Debbie Reese know if you have questions or are interested in joining us. Both full and partial week volunteers are welcome. Details will be communicated as they become available.

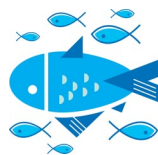
PC(USA) has created a virtual Presbyterian Advocacy Hour on the last Wednesday of each month, 12-1 pm, to give information and organize. More than 800 people signed up for the February call! The one on March 26 deals with immigration. Join good-hearted peers across the country. Use this NEW link to sign up for all calls. <https://tinyurl.com/PCUSAadvhour>

CALLING COLLEGE STUDENTS! Consider attending PC(USA)'s Young Adult Advocacy Conference, to learn how to influence public policy. Sept. 26-28 in Lansing Michigan. <https://presbyterianmission-22542400.hs-sites.com/advocacy-conference> The Mission Committee can help with costs - contact Sara.



FISH BANKS FOR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering helps Presbyterians worldwide share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Pick up a fish bank in the Harris Upper Commons. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary – vcallegary@firstpreshc.org



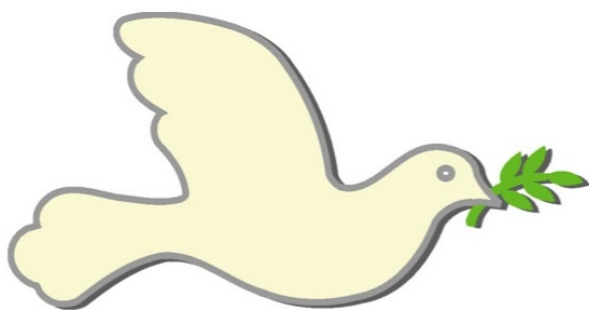
LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: If you are unable to get to church and would like either devotional, let Virginia (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org) know and she will send you a copy.

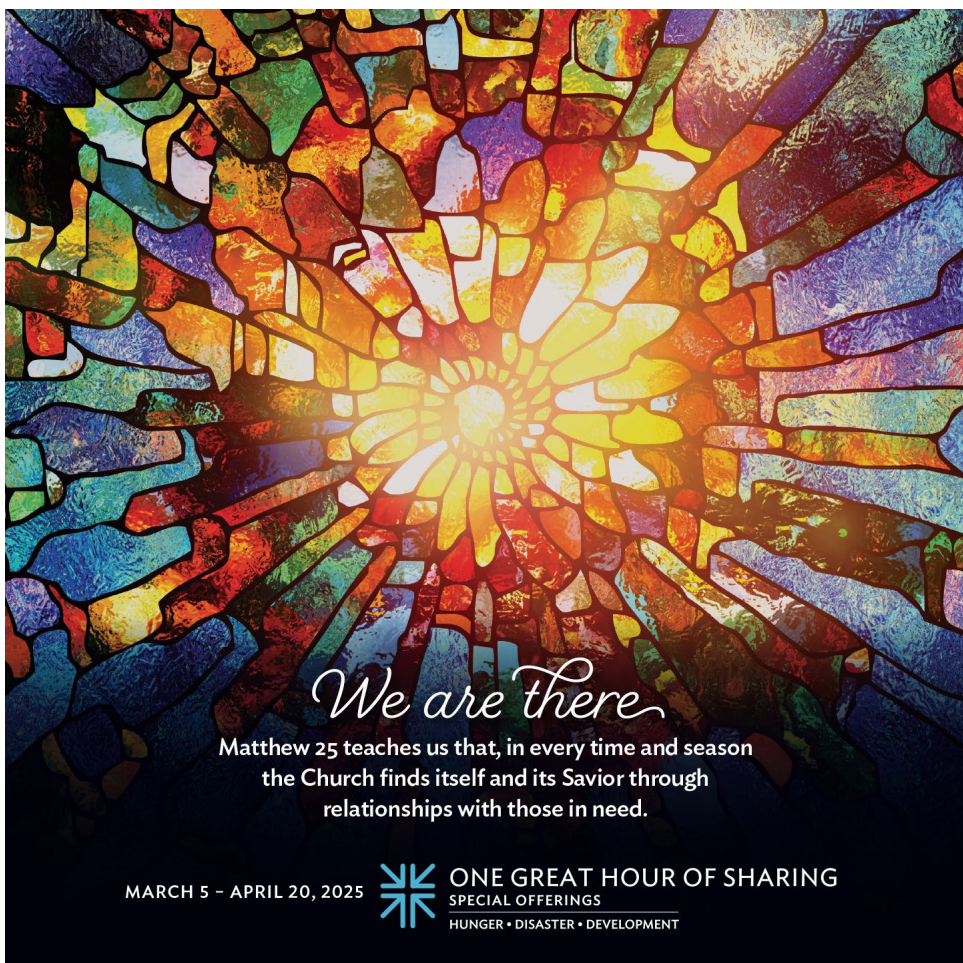
For Families with Children – Lent is a time for extra spiritual practice and added reflection. In this year's devotional, families are given one simple meditation and faith practice per week for Lent. These thoughts and practices are meant to work around busy schedules and fit in to life as makes sense for each family. Pick up your copy starting Sunday, March 2 in the Upper Commons.

For Youth and Adults – The devotional we are using this year is full of ideas and activities that can help us wake up, preparing our hearts, minds, and communities for Easter's great celebration. So grab your favorite Bible and some candles, and over the next 40 days, week by week, we'll look for treasures that can help bring us back to hope, back to love, back to life! Pick up your copy starting Sunday, March 2 in the Upper Commons.

MEDITATION MONDAYS

Mondays during Lent we will be offering brief meditation times led by Bruce starting at 9:15 pm on Zoom. All are welcome. The sessions will last about 30 minutes and include mindfulness practices and Christian based centering prayer. Join us to journey more deeply into your personal understanding of our faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Find the Zoom link in the Friday email.





We are there

Matthew 25 teaches us that, in every time and season
the Church finds itself and its Savior through
relationships with those in need.

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is one of the four special offerings we will collect this year. It is collected during Lent with a special emphasis on the Palm Sunday collection.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**-- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**, and **Self-Development of People** — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Our congregation has a personal connection with the work of PDA. Through the years members have worked closely with PDA in restoring homes damaged by hurricanes and flooding. For several years we made trips to Mississippi to work on houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina, then to North Carolina and West Virginia for later storm damage.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterian come together every year to work for a better world. We should be as generous as we can.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Info

Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available 8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/firstpreshc

YOUTUBE <http://www.youtube.com/c/firstpreshc>

Links can also be found on the Website www.firstpreshc.org

The Church Office is Open Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(The outside doors may be locked, please call upon arrival for entry.)

Sunday, March 23rd

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person only
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

Monday, March 24th

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN MON-FRI– 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 25th

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 26th

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Study Group
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Zoom Study
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsals

Thursday, March 27th

- 9:00 a.m. ROMEOS – Breakfast at Bob Evans
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 28th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, March 29th

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 30th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person only
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

Check your inbox for the weekly issues of Tidings by Ministry Area.

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 announcements to:*

churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

*To submit articles for Tidings, the church's newsletter sent out weekly by Ministry Area, please send articles by email to: churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by **Thursday, April 10, 2025 for May 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*