



# FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at  
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
February 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](http://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 Laura in loving memory of my grandfather, "Pal" and my father; and Natalie in celebration of Jeff's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:30 a.m.

*Liturgist:* John

*Ushers & Greeters:* Sara

*Tech Crew:* Barry, Francois, Tracy



## CHURCH OFFICE

**OUR CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR,** Megan Bondhus, will be on vacation from March 13-23. Please send any articles for the 3/16 & 3/23 issues of First Day! by Thursday, 3/5 to ensure there is ample time to format articles for early printing.

## THE KIPTON PROJECT

**UPDATE!!! We have collected 504 lbs. of soft plastics.** 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.

## 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 via email by Sunday, March 23rd.

# PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025

**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, Sue, family & friends of Jacob

**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](http://www.PCUSA.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd); Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru, [www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball](http://www.PCUSA.org/jed-koball); Leslie Vogel in Guatemala, [www.PCUSA.org/leslie-vogel](http://www.PCUSA.org/leslie-vogel)

*Please contact Pastor Ken Page, [kpage@firstpreshc.org](mailto: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.*



## PNC

Ministry Discernment Profile Available Online Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) recently had a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) approved by the Session and by the Presbytery. The MDP summarizes who we are as a church, including demographics, our vision and mission as a loving community of God, and a job description for our next pastor. The MDP is posted on the News & Updates section of our website.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

### OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Actual Income as of February 18, 2025   | \$121,487.89       |
| Actual Expenses as of February 18, 2025 | <u>99,563.81</u>   |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$21,924.08</b> |

It takes an average of \$2,381.21 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church.  
The total surplus/deficit shown above is (.08) days ahead/(behind).

**PER CAPITA FOR 2025 - The amount is \$42.00**

For more info go to <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/per-capita/>

*Have you paid your per capita?! Thank you to those 39 people who have paid it!*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to our next youth group which is on Wednesday, February 26 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Bring your own dinner. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto: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! Three year-olds through current fourth graders are invited to attend. The cost is \$20/child (max \$50/family) or free if a parent/guardian or grandparent is volunteering during the week. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)).

## DEACONS NEWS

### ***JUST ONE CAN! 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

Please leave your regular contribution – and “plus” items - in the “Just One Can” cart next to the Welcome Center in the Harris Upper Commons. Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

### **MARCH Food Drive for Howard Community College Students**

Through the Howard Community College campus food pantry, the Fueling Dragons program at HCC is helping students who are experiencing food insecurity. Fueling Dragons is a series of programs designed to increase students' knowledge about nutrition, support students in making healthy choices, and provide access to healthier food options through meal kits, recipes, education, and workshops. 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

## ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### 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. *Turning Over Tables* invites us to consider how Jesus confronted the powers of his day and how we, too, can engage in holy disruption for the sake of justice.

Weekly discussion prompts will be emailed to those interested and posted in the FPC-HC Devotional Discussion Group on Facebook (use the QR code to join the group). We will then meet on Sunday, April 6 at 7 pm on Zoom to discuss the book.

Virginia will be ordering copies of the book from a wonderful Christian bookstore for \$14 each. If you would like a copy please email her

([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)) by Sunday, February 23.

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

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

**THE RIGHTEOUS MIND – A BOOK STUDY** taught by Rev. Ken Page

Sunday, March 2 in Branch Hall

We will be engaging in a book study on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt. Classes based on the book will be interspersed with classes about current events using our learnings. You will need to purchase the book. The other dates for the book study are March 2 & 9 (a total of 6 weeks).

### WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

**Morning – *Who Is Jesus in John’s Gospel?*** – led by Rev. Rosemary and Rev. David – through February 26 – 9:30-11am – Parlor

**Lenten Preaching Journey with Pastor Ken** – Beginning March 5th - Ash Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 am. March 5 - 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>

## DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

March 9, 16, and 30 are wanting hosts! If you'd like to bring snacks one Sunday, please check the SignUpGenius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACAF2BA0FCC52-51327460-coffee>

### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP HOURS on Sundays

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

- \* *Sunday, February 23, 2025* – hosted by Deacons
- \* *Sunday, March 2, 2025* will be hosted by Marie and Ron
- \* *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!



# WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

## DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are openings available on the following Sundays: March 16 and April 6.

Here's the link to signup: <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](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

**We celebrate music from many different cultures across the globe**, but in February we focus on music by Black composers and featuring local Black musicians. **This Sunday**, February 23 will see our Bell Choir playing a gorgeous arrangement of My Lord, What a Morning. Every service will also feature hymns, songs, solos and arrangements by Black Composers and the African-American Heritage Hymnal.

## MISSION

### More Than Hope –

#### Sunday, February 23 at 5:30 pm – Owen Brown Interfaith Center

More than Hope is a multicultural music and dance event in support of the millions of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war torn countries, poverty, and/or violent persecution. All proceeds benefit our local partner, the Luminus Network for New Americans. In gratitude for our support over the years, Luminus is recognizing First Pres as a Bronze sponsor of the event. If you would like to attend (or just make a donation to Luminus), tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at <https://www.beluminus.org/getinvolved/more-than-hope/>.



### 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 every month, 12-1 pm, starting Feb. 26, to fuel up with information on the most pressing issues. Everyone is welcome! Get nourishment for your spirit, and essential connections and resources. Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/PCUSAFeb>

**PC(USA)** has asked members to contact their Members of Congress to protest the enactment of Project 2025, which covers many of the Administration's recent initiatives: "The implementation of Project 2025 presents dangerous measures that harm the nation's well-being...Presbyterians, and people of faith, must respond with an onslaught of pushback to ensure our voices are heard..."

<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/121082/Respond>

Pastor Ken found these websites with companies that have policies in support of fair trade, equity, etc: [fairtradecertified.org](http://fairtradecertified.org); [fairtradefederation.org](http://fairtradefederation.org); [goodonyou.eco](http://goodonyou.eco). There is an email list *that is not an official church function*, of FPCHC members and friends who wish to share opportunities and plan group projects/outings to take action. Please contact Sara via email if you wish to be added.

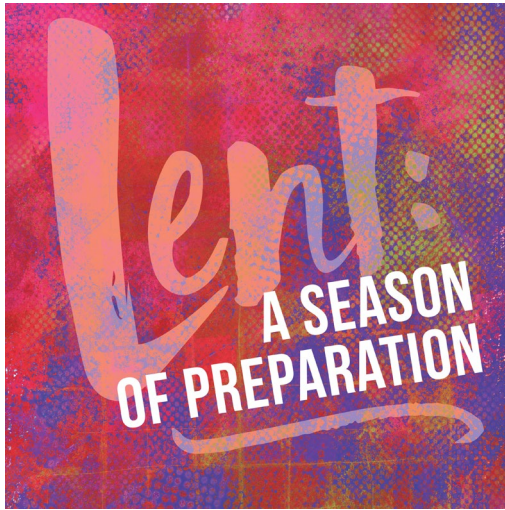
## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

### Percy Lavon Julian

**Percy Lavon Julian, Ph.D. (1899-1975)** was a research chemist and entrepreneur. He was the first to synthesize the drug physostigmine, which is used in the treatment of glaucoma. He also developed a method for efficiently extracting sterol, a precursor of steroid hormones such as cortisone, from soybeans. His process lowered the cost of production of these compounds, ultimately enabling access of millions of people suffering from inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis to this important steroid therapy. Julian was born in Montgomery, Alabama and attended school through eighth grade, the highest grade level available there for African American students. He was accepted at DePauw University in Indiana, as a “sub-freshman” with concurrent evening high-school courses for him to “catch up”. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and valedictorian of his class in 1920. Julian subsequently received his Master’s degree from Harvard University and his Doctorate in chemistry from the University of Vienna. During his career he taught at Fisk University, Howard University and West Virginia State College. After completing his doctorate, Julian returned to DePauw where he continued his research on medicinal compounds in plants and, using findings from his graduate work on the Calabar bean, he accomplished the first chemical synthesis of physostigmine in 1935. Later, while working at the Glidden Company in Chicago as laboratory director, he discovered that sterol isolated from soybeans could be used as an inexpensive precursor for synthesis of steroid hormones. Julian was granted a number of patents for his discoveries during his career. He founded his own company, Julian Laboratories, in 1954. It became a successful business and helped foster the careers of the next generation of African American chemists. Some of Percy Julian’s honors include: he was the first African American chemist elected to the National Academy of Sciences; his synthesis of physostigmine was recognized by the American Chemical Society as a National Historic Chemical Landmark; he received the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP.

#### References:

Science History Institute, Museum and Library [ [www.sciencehistory.org](http://www.sciencehistory.org) ] ;  
“Forgotten Genius” NOVA: Season 34, Episode 8 (PBS documentary) , air date: February 6, 2007;  
Biography – Percy Julian ’20 [ <https://www.depauw.edu/julian/biography/> ]



## LENT BEGINS NEXT WEEK



### SHROVE TUESDAY

**SHROVE TUESDAY, March 4, 2025**

**Pancake Supper** in Lyle Buck Hall

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Suggested Donation: \$5 each/\$10 per family

Dinner will begin at 6 PM. with Sausages, Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs and Fruit Cocktail. Everyone is Welcome! If you are

available to help with set-up, clean-up, or preparing pancakes please contact Bruce Leipold or Woody Collins.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2025**

**The Beginning of Lent**

*Worship in-person at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary*

*A service of prayer, song, and ashes.*



This is a service of prayer, meditation, song, and the traditional imposition of ashes to help us mark the beginning of Lent as a congregation, and as individual disciples of Jesus. Lent is a time for self-reflection as we make ready for the journey inward and journey outward moving toward Easter.

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

**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. If you are unable to get to church let Virginia ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)) know and she will send you a copy.

**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 (tealights work nicely!), 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. If you are unable to get to church let Virginia ([vcallegary@firstpreshc.org](mailto:vcallegary@firstpreshc.org)) know and she will send you a copy.

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreshc)

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

Links can also be found on the Website [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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.)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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 & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

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

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

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

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

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

- 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, February 27<sup>th</sup>

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

### Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

### Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

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

### Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD/COMMUNION 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
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

*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](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) by **Thursday, March 13, 2025 for April 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*