



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
January 5, 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, 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 for children are available in the Upper Commons.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Lisa in celebration of my mother, Mardi, and her birthday on January 1st; and by the Rentkiewicz Family in honor of Nancy's birthday.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Akua

Ushers & Greeters: Margot

Tech Crew: Matthew, Tracy, Jacob



PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2025

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

And also for: everyone living in Charlestown, Encore, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House; the people of Ukraine, the people affected by Hurricane Helene.

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

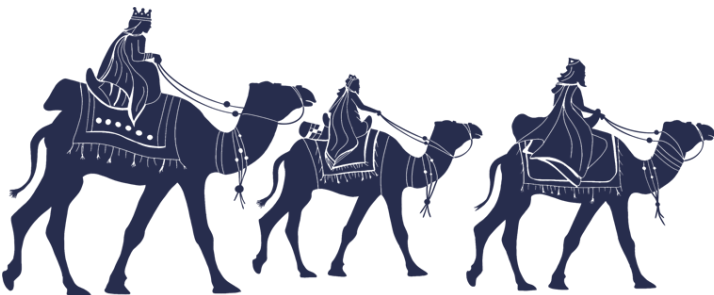
Care Center: Virgie, Margaret, Lois

Recovering from Surgery: Nana, Pat, Mr. N.

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*

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.



CHURCH OFFICE

SCAMMER ALERT!!! There has been another email targeting church members where someone is impersonating Pastor Ken Page again. If you received an email from Ken or anyone in the office and it is not from the email addresses listed on our website or directory, **DO NOT** respond to the messages, **DO NOT** purchase anything, and please report the message directly to the church office. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact the Church Office directly at 410-730-3545 or email churchoffice@firstpreshc.org.

GET READY! 2024 Annual Reports were due *Friday, January 3, 2024*. Please send them to Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org ASAP so she can start formatting the report.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 5th -8th graders are invited to our next youth group which is on Wednesday, January 8 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (vcallegary@firstpreshc.org).

DISCIPLESHIP & CARING

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

TODAY Sunday, January 5 at 11:30 a.m.

Hosts are: Ron and Marie

Please enjoy coffee, snacks, & fellowship in Buck Hall immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. If you'd like to bring snacks one Sunday, please check the SignUpGenius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACA2BA0FCC52-51327460-coffee>



GARDEN GUARDIANS

Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake as part of the grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust is funding signs for our gardens, which are pictured below. As stewards of the earth we at First Presbyterian need to be educated about salt pollution and what are good practices for our gardens. The group of congregations at the bottom of the signs are those participating in the grant named Garden Guardians. Look for these signs in the new year! I would also point out that there is local information by Howard County Government on proper use of salt as we head into the winter season. See the link by Clean H2Oward below:

<https://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/what-your-role/community-stewardship/winter-salt-reduction?fbclid=IwY2xjawGplY1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHb6micuB59cPTxM9Igi-7sldzh2UabU UC-s2 SlnwvYocr5PfeOhnqzQ aem -j957Nt06w6wlyV26di-AA>

There are good alternatives to salt and salt should not be over used.

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC

SIGNUP FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS in 2025

Thank you to everyone who provided flowers in 2024! Interested in flowers for 2025? 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](https://www.paypal.com).

Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

DEACONS NEWS

JUST ONE CAN...PLUS!!! – December – POWERFUL Food

As part of the Deacons' continuing campaign against hunger in Howard County, we are asking for any food contributions for our neighbors. Hunger is an on-going concern for too many of our neighbors especially this year.

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 donations in the storage box by the back entrance (near the mailbox). Thank you from the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

MISSION

COLD WEATHER SHELTER – First Pres' turn supporting the Howard County Cold Weather Shelter (our 20th year!) is coming up the week of February 10th – 16th. It will be at the Grassroots Emergency Shelter at 6700 Freetown Road, and we will be providing meals for the shelter's 50 long-term residents in addition to the 20 Cold Weather Shelter residents. To see what volunteer opportunities are available and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2025CWS>, the QR code, go the CWS page on the church website (<https://www.firstpreshc.org/post/cold-weather-shelter-feb-10-16-2025>); or contact Margot, Amy, or Ellen.



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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please join Presbyterian Women for their annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m. in Lyle Buck Hall. The cost will be \$25. Please sign up in the Lower Commons or RSVP to Carol or Debbie. Should you need a ride or are able to provide a ride let us know when you RSVP.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of December 31, 2024	\$858,173.46
Actual Expenses as of December 31, 2024	<u>821,981.42</u>
Total	\$36,192.04

It takes an average of \$2,277.72 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church.
The total surplus/deficit shown above is 16 days ahead/(behind).

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

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

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

Sundays, January 5 & 19 in Branch Hall

Starting January 5, we will be engaging in a book study on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt. The New York Times has called this book “A landmark contribution to humanity’s understanding of itself.” Haidt brings his training and research as a Moral Psychologist to change conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to everyone on the political spectrum. Join this class to gain insight about why progressives, conservatives, and libertarians have such different takes about right and wrong. Classes based on the book will be interspersed with classes about current events using our learnings. You will need to purchase the book. If you would like to support a brick and mortar Christian bookseller, email DCE Virginia Callegary by Sunday, December 22 and she will place an order (the cost is \$15). The other dates for the book study are February 2 & 9 and March 2 & 9 (a total of 6 weeks).

EXOPLANETS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THEM SUPPORTING LIFE

taught by Emma

Sunday, January 12 in Branch Hall

Emma is Ken Page's daughter and is a PhD student in Astro Physics. Her research uses machine learning to identify exoplanets (planets outside of our solar system). She has currently discovered about 30 planets and is on track to discover more. Emma will talk about her research, and hit some fun stuff like life on other planets and the spirituality of gazing into space.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

Morning – *Who Is Jesus in John’s Gospel?* – led by Rev. Rosemary and Rev. David – January 8 – February 26 – 9:30-11am – Parlor

The Fourth Gospel is full of beautiful imagery, memorable texts (like John 3.16) and long speeches by Jesus. It’s very different from the three Synoptic Gospels. You’re invited to gather on Wednesday mornings to take a closer look at the Gospel of John, and particularly the person of Jesus as John presents him.

Evening – *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman – with Andrea – Jan 8 – Feb 12, 7-8:30pm – Zoom

A study of Jesus as the One who walks with people in the pain of oppression and presents the example of a life of love as empowering and preeminent. Thurman developed his ideas over more than a decade and was an influence in the thinking of Martin Luther King, Jr., and others in the civil rights movement.

Register in advance for the Zoom link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-6vqTstGndMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiqHjXW>

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, January 5th

EPIPHANY

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. Session Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

Monday, January 6th

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

Tuesday, January 7th

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Pastor-Parish-Personnel Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th

- 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, January 9th

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

Friday, January 10th

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, January 11th

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

- 9:00 a.m. De-hanging of the Greens
- 9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle

Sunday, January 12th

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- 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

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, January 9, 2024 for February 2025 events.** Then watch your inbox every week!*