



FIRST DAY!

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
December 29, 2024

TODAY

10:00 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP (in-person and livestream) ONE SERVICE

Our in-person and livestream congregations share worship together. This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet, you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. You can find this week's worship materials on the website: www.firstpreshc.org

CHILDREN BEGIN WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

At 10:00 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. 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 BRIDGE will not meet TODAY Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Worship bags for children are available in the Upper Commons.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM for Sophie Marie, daughter of Daniel and Tamara, and granddaughter of Doyle and Ellen Nichols.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Louise in memory of Ellen; and by Lisa in memory of my father, Larry.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY: 10:00 a.m.

Liturgist: Sara

Ushers & Greeters: Chrissy

Tech Crew: Tracy

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29, 2024

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Brunch at 11:00 a.m. in Lyle Buck Hall

Come celebrate the end of 2024 and the start of 2025 with your church family.



PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29, 2024

PRINTED OF 12/20/24

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 are due *Friday, January 3, 2024*. Please send them to Church Administrator, Megan Bondhus, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org. Early submissions accepted! Thanks!

2025 Offering Envelopes are Here!

Through December 29th, please check the table in the Harris Upper Commons for your offering envelopes.

If you pick them up, the church saves a lot of postage!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH WINTER LOCK-IN

Friday, January 3, 2025, 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, January 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

5th—12th graders are invited to come to the church to celebrate winter with friends, games, treats, movies & more! Bring a snack to share and your signed permission postcard.

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, December 29 at 11:00 a.m.*

Hosts are: DCM for the New Year's Brunch

Please enjoy coffee, snacks, & fellowship in Buck Hall immediately following the 10:00 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/10C0F4DACA2F2BA0FCC52-51327460-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=IwY2xjawGpIY1leHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHb6micuB59cPTxM9Igi-7sldzh2UabU_UC-s2_SlnwvJYoCr5PfeOhnqZQ_aem_-j957Nt06w6wlyV26di-AA

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

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

ANOTHER SUCESSFUL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Thank you to all who helped make the 2024 Alternative Gift Fair (AGF) a huge success! Whether you volunteered or shopped (or both!), your presence contributed to the holiday spirit that has become part of the tradition of the First Pres AGF. More than \$4400 was donated to the 18 organizations supported through the AGF this year. Shoppers enjoyed purchasing fair trade items from Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Equal Exchange, and the PW bake sale was a tremendous success, too. The ever-popular Children's Corner provided parent-free shopping for approximately 40 children, youth, and even a few college students. All this was accomplished through the efforts of 16 adult and 8 youth volunteers, with a lot of support from our amazing church staff. Mark your calendar now for next year's AGF, which is scheduled for December 6-7, 2025.

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 Watson at margotewatson@gmail.com, Amy Curran at amyandpatcurran@gmail.com or Ellen Nichols at enichols0786@gmail.com.



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 Williams 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.

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON 12/29/24. SEE YOU IN JANUARY

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH facilitated by Doyle – 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-6vqTstGNdMbW4UBdwAfUcwDJiHjXW>

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](#).

Questions? Contact, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Info

Nursery Care for ages 4 and under available 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.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, December 29th

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 a.m. One Worship Service – In-person & Livestream
Godly Play

11:00 a.m. New Year's Breakfast

Monday, December 30th

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

Tuesday, December 31st

CHURCH BUILDING & OFFICE OPEN 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 1st

NEW YEAR'S DAY – CHURCH BUILDING & OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2nd

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 3rd

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, January 4th

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

Sunday, January 5th

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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 & Worship Bridge

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

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 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!*