



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
February 21, 2021

TODAY

Today, during the coronavirus pandemic, we are livestreaming worship at 10:30 a.m. so stay home and stay healthy and join us online. Share the Peace, Spread the Word, not the virus.

WORSHIP – LIVESTREAM. Here's a few ideas about how to make it more meaningful. Gather some items for a home worship space. Include a candle and matchstick so you can light the candle in your home when Pastor Sue lights the Christ Candle in the Sanctuary. 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. All the hymns, responses and texts are in the bulletin. This Sunday, February 21, is the First Sunday in Lent, and the Liturgical color is PURPLE. Your home worship space can include things that suggest barrenness and promise: bare gray branches waiting for the green shoots of early Spring; sand and rocks suggesting the wilderness; empty vessels or broken pottery. During Lent you could force bulbs. Paperwhite narcissus or hyacinths work well, and they take about 6 weeks to force, so you plant your bare bulbs this week and have blooms for Easter. You can plant some seeds – like the seeds you received in your Lenten Kit. You could choose one of the mandala coloring pages in your Lenten Kit and color it bit by bit, bringing it into your worship space each week as it gets nearer completion.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to the Livestream Worship Team.

Choir: Nan, Kathy, Liz, Wayne, Jon

Liturgist: Doria

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Jean in loving memory of Jonathan who died on February 21, 2019; and by Caroline in celebration of Catherine's birthday today.

REMEMBRANCE CANDLE – We light a candle every week during the Covid-19 crisis to remember those who have died from this virus.

WE CELEBRATE BLUE SHIRT SUNDAY every year on the first Sunday in Lent (this year it's TODAY February 21st) as a testament to the many ways One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference. This year, because we can't gather together at church for group photos, PDA is asking you to participate by sharing your Blue Shirt Selfies. Send a photo of you wearing your Blue to PDA@pcusa.org to demonstrate how we can still celebrate together and honor the gifts of One Great Hour of Sharing. Photos will be compiled and shared online. Many thanks! Cameron Stevens



SUNDAY WORSHIP begins at 10:30 a.m.

10:15 a.m. Gathering Time

15 minutes of music, welcome and sharing as we gather in for livestream worship

10:30 a.m. Worship Livestream on Facebook or YouTube

Go to www.firstpreshc.org and click on links

Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month.

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Please pray for: Mispa, Burta, Dave, Dylan, Natalie, Paula, Mil, Rose, Betty, Doris, *Martin*, Barb, Shirley, Shirley, Beth; for everyone living in Charlestown, Millers Grant, Riderwood and Vantage House; those in our congregation who have tested positive for Covid-19; healthcare workers and essential employees working during Covid-19 pandemic; those in the congregations of the Union Maya Boca Costa Presbiterio in Guatemala who have tested positive for Covid-19 especially the family of Adolfo; Miguel, treasurer of the Boca Costa Presbytery Executive Committee.

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

Non-Resident Members: Frank and Betty, Vivian, Barb

Friends & Family: Carla, Macky and Jimmy, *Sharon, Mary Sue, Larry, Mary, Tony* Katherine, Myrna, Evan, Andrew, Kalene, Rosalie and George, Rosemary, Al, Liam, Aaron, Eyler, Julian and family, William, Joel, Matt, Tim, Devan, Jonah and Stephanie, Charles, Meg, Trey and Piper.

Recovering from Surgery: Vij, Aja, Pat

Hospitalized: *Phil*

Care Center: Marvin, Carol, Barbara

Deaths: *May the peace of Christ be with Tamara and family, in the death of her mother, Virginia, on February 13, 2021.*

Bereaved: Louisa, Barb, Mike; *Akua*, Darlene and Craig, Virginia and Paige, *Kathy and Gareth*, Louise and Paul, Suzie and Family, John, Angela, Barb and Sarah, *Nana Oye*, Maggie and Derek, Tina, Anna, Lauren and Caroline, Brett and Janet and family, Beth, Scot and Kendrick

Seminarians: Blake, Emma

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

Please contact 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

Marian Anderson (*February 27, 1897 – April 8, 1993*) was an American musician. She grew up singing in her church's choir in Philadelphia, studied there and broke into the classical music field when she won a competition with the New York Philharmonic in 1925. An African-American, Anderson was an important figure in the civil rights struggle. In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution refused permission for Anderson to sing to an integrated audience in Constitution Hall. With the aid of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Anderson performed a critically acclaimed open-air concert on Easter Sunday, in 1939 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to a crowd of more than 75,000 people and a radio audience in the millions. She continued to break barriers for black artists in the United States, notably becoming the first black person, American or otherwise, to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on January 7, 1955.

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

(CONTINUED)

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 *France, Germany, Monaco*.

Pray for:

- Continued generosity in supporting ecumenical, interfaith and development work around the world;
- Overcoming fears and suspicions that still remain from 20th century atrocities, and more recent terrorist attacks;
- Churches and governments to effectively counter anti-immigrant populist sentiments in these countries so that they truly will become more multi-ethnic.

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 2021

We pray for the churches and pastors of Baltimore Presbytery.

- ✦ Christ Our King Church in Bel Air – *Jeff Young, Pastor*
- ✦ Churchville Church in Harford County – *Stephen Melton, Pastor*
- ✦ Covenant Church in Hagerstown – *Laura Batten-Carbaugh, Pastor*

To the Church Triumphant

Virginia Dorey Pausch

November 20, 1925 – February 13, 2021

To view Virginia's obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

"And there will be no more night...for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." Revelation 22.5

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC NEWS

FACEBOOK LIVE: EVENING PRAYER WITH THE CO-PASTORS

Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m.

Pastor Sue invites you to gather in her study on Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. for a brief (5-10 minute) Service of Evening Prayer. Of course, in this season of physical distance – the gathering will take place via our FPCHC Facebook page. You don't have to have a Facebook account to access our page. There's a link directly to our page on our website – www.firstpreshc.org - just scroll down the right-hand side, and you'll find our social media links there. The **BLUE F** is for Facebook! Bring your self and maybe a candle. That's all. Hope to see you online!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS for Sundays in 2021

Sundays in February are filled except for February 28. There are a few dates available in March too. Interested? Please go to Signup Genius! [CLICK HERE](#) to reserve flowers for February 28 or on any available Sunday in 2021. When you place your order, you can indicate the dedication you would like in the bulletin that Sunday and whether you want to take the flowers home or leave them for the Deacons to deliver to a church member to brighten their day. The flowers cost \$35. Please send a check to the church office or via [PayPal](#). Questions? Contact Church Administrator, Caroline Smith, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org

THE TECHNICAL SERVICES MINISTRY needs YOUR help. We are actively recruiting in the following areas: Audio Operator / Video Operator / Power Point Operator. We will offer training in the near future. For more info or to sign-up, please contact technicalservices@firstpreshc.org

THE SEASON OF LENT

HOME LENTEN KIT & DEVOTIONAL FOR ALL AGES

This year we would like everyone to have a way to observe Lent at home. The Lenten kit is meant for all ages to be used in households as well as by individuals. The kits are in a box outside the kitchen door for you to pick up whenever you are able. The daily devotions will also be posted in our [Facebook](#)

[Devotional Discussion Group](#) for you to share your experiences there. Email Virginia Callegary (vcalleary@firstpreshc.org) if you have any questions.



LENTEN CREATION CARE 2021

Because the world can change a lot in 40 days. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God's Creation throughout this season. May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it. On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty — those most harmed by our damaged climate — may we answer God's call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care. [CLICK HERE](#) for the 2021 Lenten Creation Care Calendar.

EASTER LILIES

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter.

The cost is \$17.00 per plant.

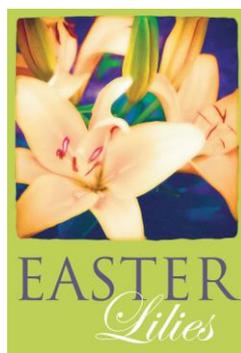
[CLICK HERE](#) to order Easter Lilies

The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 21.**

Easter lilies can be picked up at the church after the Easter morning worship service on Sunday, April 4

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

For more information or questions, contact Church Administrator, Caroline Smith, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Morton Harris, Co-Pastor: mharris@firstpreshc.org

Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor: sharris@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, Christian Educator: vcalleary@firstpreshc.org

Matt May, Director of Music Ministries: mmay@firstpreshc.org

Caroline Smith, Church Administrator: fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org

Pat Travers, Bookkeeper: bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org

Woody Collins, Church Sexton: sexton@firstpreshc.org

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

James Baldwin: My Dungeon Shook: A Letter to my Nephew

In 1962, the Progressive Magazine published a letter James Baldwin wrote to his nephew. The letter is excerpted from his novel, *The Fire Next Time*, published in 1963. In this letter Baldwin shared his thoughts for his nephew's future in a nation with a history of racism.

Throughout the month of February, the full letter as well as reflections and other readings or videos will be on the church's website. [CLICK HERE](#) to access those materials. Our hope is that you will hear the words and the sentiment expressed in this letter and ask yourself why Baldwin felt he needed to write this letter and what we can do to make this kind of letter unnecessary.

Week Three Reflections

Baldwin became an ex-patriot, moving to Switzerland in 1953 to finish his first novel. He said that living abroad gave him a different perspective and "solitary freedom to pursue his craft." What do you think he meant by that? What freedom did he have outside of the US that he didn't have within it.

Read this piece from the PBS [American Masters Series](#). Consider what Baldwin's life and message means to you, and how it will influence you?

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

BIBLE IN DEPTH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL *with Doyle Nichols*

Every Sunday at 9:30 am. on Zoom

We will work our way through the prophets of the Old Testament, beginning with Hosea, together in an informal and interactive format. In order to receive the Zoom link for this ongoing class you must [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). Once you register an email will be sent to you with a link to join the meeting.

Questions? Contact DCE Virginia Callegary, vcalleary@firstpreshc.org

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

February 24 – Prayer: Levine – Chapter 4, Matthew 6:9-13 (see also Luke 11:2-4)

The Wednesday Study Groups will be looking at the compilation of Jesus' teaching we call *The Sermon on the Mount* – Matthew chapters 5 through 7. We will use the book and video series - *The Sermon on the Mount – A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, by Amy- Jill Levine, published by Abingdon, is available on Amazon. Email Pastor Sue, sharris@firstpreshc.org and she will send you the Zoom Link. It's that simple! Everybody welcome!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School for children and youth age two through 12th grade is on Zoom for now. Children age two through 5th grade meet on *Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*

Classes for mid- and senior high students take place on *Sundays at 11:30 a.m.*

Email DCE Virginia Callegary, vcalleary@firstpreshc.org, if you would like the link to join any of those classes.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

CIRCLES OF CARE

NEXT Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. - next small group ZOOM meeting
In these days of missing each other's presence we are continuing to connect with one another in a small group and invite you to participate. We look forward to seeing those who have already attended, those who expressed an earlier interest but have not yet attended and anyone else who would like to be part of this new and exciting initiative at First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. It is not too late to join in. Contact Church Administrator, Caroline Smith, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org with questions or to request the link for the meeting. Please respond by *Friday, February 26*. A link for joining will be emailed to you.

PRESBY FELLOWSHIP/PUB

Thursday, March 4, 2021 – 4:30-5:20 p.m.

This social group started by the Lockyers many years ago in their home continues to offer fellowship for First Presbyterian congregants and friends. All are welcome! With the pandemic, it has become a virtual gathering by Zoom, every other Thursday. To be added to the announcement email list, contact the church office, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

BRIDGES TO HOUSING STABILITY is partnering with Shake Shack on *Wednesday, February 24, 2021*, for Bridges' Donation Day. Enjoy delicious burgers, hot dogs, fries, frozen custard, shakes, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks! *Shake Shack will donate 25% of your order if you use the code DONATION in the promo code section when ordering your food on the Shack App, web, or kiosk.* This fundraiser takes place at the Columbia Mall location from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Giving back never tasted so good! Please support Bridges' efforts to prevent & end homelessness in our community.

LOVE OFFERING FOR ADOLFO SANTIZO

The Session has approved a love offering for Adolfo Santizo, a long-time friend and mission partner in the Guatemala project. Adolfo has been part of our Guatemala team for over 10 years providing transportation, guidance, interpretation and friendship. Adolfo and his family are suffering significant hardships because of COVID-19. Providing transportation for mission and tourist groups is his primary source of income for which he hasn't worked since February 2020. One of his daughters, a nurse, was the primary earner for Adolfo's extended family until she contracted COVID-19 herself. She developed long-term complications that will keep her bed-ridden and in need of constant care for at least the next several months. Adolfo has not asked for money; his only request was for prayers. The suggestion of a financial gift came from the Guatemala Project Leadership Team at First Presbyterian.

Please prayerfully consider this gift. Donations can be sent to the church by mail, drop-off through the mail slot, or [CLICK HERE](#) to contribute through PayPal. Please note on your donation "Guatemala Love Offering." Thank you!

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES – Last Day to contribute!

As a mission to the college students in our congregation, Ruth Circle is coordinating the annual College Care Packages. This year, instead of collecting items, we are collecting donations to be sent as gift cards. If you would like to contribute, [CLICK HERE](#) to donate to the college care packages via PayPal. OR you can drop a check

off at the church, please designate “College Care Packages” in the memo. Or send in your donation with a direct deposit from your bank. Please send in your donations by TODAY *Sunday, February 21*.

Parents of college students, if you would like your student to receive a gift card, please send their address Contact Church Administrator, Caroline Smith, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org by TODAY *Sunday, February 21*. Thank you for remembering our college students.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS – VIRTUALLY

Presented by Howard County Faith Communities

Tuesday, February 23 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Register at www.hococourageousconversations.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

JUST ONE CAN...PLUS! – 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. Please leave your donations in the storage box by the back entrance (near the mailbox). Thank you on behalf on the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County. As always, the generous support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL reports the Howard County Food Bank is open and helping people, but because of the increased demand, they are requesting online monetary donations. [CLICK HERE to donate to Howard County Food Bank](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for FIRN’s Navigator Program

When people are new to the United States, they have many questions about how to navigate different systems. FIRN is looking to train volunteer Navigators to help guide immigrants through these different processes to ensure they receive necessary support and services. Requirements: phone and computer; 6 month commitment; minimum 1 hour per week; bilingual and multi-lingual volunteers highly needed (especially Spanish-speakers). Email KLilly@FIRNonline.org

FEED HOWARD COUNTY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO DISTRIBUTE MEALS!

Feed Howard County, a local organization focused on supporting local restaurants and families in need has now delivered 10,000 meals to communities around the county during the ongoing pandemic. Feed Howard County is looking for volunteers as we ramp up our efforts during 2021. Please email us at feedhowardcounty@gmail.com to see how you can help.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

We know there are quite a few of our worshipping community who want to become formal members of First Church. We have been trying to figure out how to do this without our usual in-person classes. If you’d like to join, please be in touch with either Pastor Morton, mharris@firstpreshc.org, or Pastor Sue, sharris@firstpreshc.org. Together, we’ll pick a date to meet with you by zoom or

phone, and send you the Member Information Form for the Clerk's permanent records. After that, we'll invite you to the first minutes of the next (zoom) meeting of the Session to be received. So, if you have been a guest – for a few months or a few years – you are a welcome guest, and we'd like to add you as a member!

The Session will receive New Members at 6:45 p.m. a few minutes before their regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Next meeting is *Tuesday, February 23.*

We look forward to welcoming you as a formal member of the congregation!

KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR CHURCH

Our main way of communicating with everyone now is via emails – *Friday email, Tidings, Mission Opportunities, Earth Forum, etc.* Are you receiving emails from First Presbyterian Church of Howard County? You might need to look in the "Promotions" or "Updates" section/tab of your email. If you are not receiving our emails, please send your email address to our Church Administrator, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org so you can get all the news. At the same time please send in your current address, phone numbers and birthdays for your family members. We want everyone involved!!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

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. [CLICK HERE](#) for some ways we can continue to give. Thank you for all the ways you support the Church!

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of February 18, 2021	\$142,077.43
Actual Expenses as of February 18, 2021	<u>118,494.71</u>
Total	\$23,582.72

It takes an average of \$2,156.74 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church. The total surplus/deficit shown above is 11 days ahead/(behind).

PER CAPITA FOR 2021 is \$36.06. 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 58 people who have paid already!*

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CHURCH

Please be safe! Share the Peace, Spread the Word, but not the virus.

[CLICK HERE](#) for CHURCH BUILDING UPDATES

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

- ✓ Wear a face mask when out and about
- ✓ Practice social distancing – keep 6 feet apart
- ✓ Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer
- ✓ Stay home IF:
 - you don't feel well
 - you have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19
 - you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past two weeks
- ✓ Get a flu shot
- ✓ Get the vaccine – [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:15 a.m. Gathering Time

10:30 a.m. Worship – Livestream

FACEBOOK AND YOU TUBE LINKS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

www.firstpreshc.org

THE CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CHURCH STAFF CAN BE REACHED VIA EMAIL, SEE LISTING IN FIRST DAY

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN TO CHURCH MEMBERS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Sunday, February 21st

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for children and adults via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Gathering Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, February 23rd

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 24th

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, February 25th

- 7:00 p.m. Run for Coffee Meeting via Zoom
- 9:30 p.m. Facebook Live: *Evening Prayer* with Pastors

Friday, February 26th

BULLETINS PRINTED

FRIDAY EMAIL WITH SUNDAY BULLETIN SENT OUT

Saturday, February 27th

- 9:00 a.m. Tech Booth Workday

Sunday, February 28th

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SCOUT SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for children and adults via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Gathering Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Circles of Care via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle Check-in via Zoom

The Church Office and Building are currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Please contact the Church Administrator, fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org if you need access to the church building.

For more events throughout the week at First Presbyterian Church, please check our website at www.firstpreshc.org for the weekly issue of *First Day* or the current issue of *Tidings*.

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, March 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for the April 2021 Issue #4.**