



FIRST DAY !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
November 27, 2022

TODAY

8:30 a.m. EARLY SERVICE in the Sanctuary

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

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.

FOR OUR 10:30 a.m. ONLINE CONGREGATION

The link will open around 10:20 a.m. This Sunday, November 27, is the First Sunday of Advent. The liturgical color is **blue**. Pick up a copy of the bulletin so you can join in the liturgy at home. You can find this week's materials on the website: www.firstpreshc.org

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR following the 10:30 a.m. service in Lyle Buck Hall. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and a treat as you chat with your fellow church members. Hosted by Lydia Circle

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: All worship begins in the sanctuary.

At 10:30 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 in rooms 110 & 113.

Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to The Worship Bridge. They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.

WORSHIP BAGS: Worship bags are available to enhance the worship experience for children. Please return everything (except the bulletins) to the bags and return the bags to the ushers at the end of the service.

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Kristin and Andy with special thanks to the First Presbyterian Family; and by Carol and Woody in celebration of Bridget's birthday!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY:

Liturgist: Linda (10:30)

Ushers & Greeters: Chrissy (10:30)

Tech Crew: Jonathan, Mark, Margot



First Sunday
OF ADVENT

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Please pray for: Dave, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Bob and Sarah Jo, Doris, Maria, Tom, Dename and Family, Dan, Scot and his father & mother.

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

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

Friends & Family: Carolyn, Tony and Louise and their health care providers, Joseph and Leah, John and Rosanne, Chuck and family, Cornelia, Al, Leighton Thompson (Tom), Jane, Aaron, Eyler, Matt, Bill, Mitzi, Adam.

Recovering from Surgery: Bob, Jerri

Care Center: Margaret, Carol, Paul, Barbara, Lois, Beth

Bereaved: Shirley; Jonathan and Jerri

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 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. Friends & Family names are listed for 8 weeks.



PEOPLE ON THE WAY

Benjamin Britten (November 22, 1913 – December 4, 1976) was an English composer, conductor and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. He grew up in Suffolk, and went on to study music at the Royal College of Music in London. He was a prolific composer of operas, chamber music, song cycles, and choral and orchestral works. His father was an avowed atheist, and many have thought that Britten himself was an agnostic. Yet in the 1960s he described himself as a dedicated Christian, influenced by the writings of Paul Tillich and Bishop John AT Robinson's book *Honest to God*. Much of his work was on Christian themes. In Advent we remember him for his *Ceremony of Carols*, completed in 1942 on a ship sailing from New York to London. He is buried in Suffolk, in the churchyard of Aldeburgh Parish Church. The authorities at Westminster Abbey had offered burial there, but Britten made it clear that he wished to be buried next to his life partner, renowned tenor Peter Pears.

We also remember:

December 1 is World AIDS Day.

December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of a city bus. This event sparked the 382-day Montgomery Bus Boycott, which sparked the modern movement for racial equality in the USA.

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 *Myanmar, Thailand*. Pray for:

- Minority ethnic and religious groups who continue to experience discrimination, persecution or even genocide (such as the Rohingyas), and for greater interfaith understanding and tolerance for ethnic and religious diversity;
- Those victimized by sex tourism and exploitation, and those who perpetuate such acts;
- Environmental protection as these countries undergo development.

For more information about the Prayer Cycle,

visit the website of the World Council of Churches: <https://www.oikoumene.org>

OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2022

We pray for the mission of our congregation.

Boca Costa Presbytery Mission Partnership:

Belen (Bethlehem) Church in the village of La Ladrillera

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Classes are held in person in the church building. Grab a cup of coffee at the Wake-Up Station in the hallway outside the church office and join a class. All are welcome! There is no Sunday School TODAY November 27.

THE BIBLE IN DEPTH *facilitated by Doyle*

Every Sunday at 9:30 am. in the Parlor

This lively conversational study is reading through the literature of the Old Testament. All are invited to jump right in!

THE MYSTICAL PATH TO ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Sundays, (no class November 27), December 4, 11 & 18 at 9:30 a.m.

facilitated by Bruce

Advent is coming soon! It is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, and also his second coming in our lives. Christian mysticism and its practices are also a way for us to prepare for God to appear in the now. This class will look briefly at Christian mysticism as expressed by Paul, as it was first developed and practiced by early Christian saints in eastern and western monasteries, and how it is practiced today. You'll also have the opportunity to briefly practice meditation in class.

We will also be using the book, [Advent in Plain Sight](#), by Pastor Jill Duffield, the author of [Lent in Plain Sight](#) which we used for a Lenten class last Winter. We will join Pastor Duffield as she helps us find the deeper meanings of Advent and the coming of Jesus through Bible readings, reflections, and questions about everyday objects in our lives such as gates, light, trees and stars.

The church has purchased several copies of the book. If you would like to buy a copy the cost is \$13. We will cover the cost of the book for anyone who can't afford it. Contact DCE Virginia Callegary (churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS

The Morning Study Group meets in-person at the church in the Parlor, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

They are studying the book of Philippians. However, there is a zoom link available, and you must register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Evening Study Group meets on Zoom, 7:00 – 8:15pm.

The Wednesday evening group are studying Women in the Bible.

You must register in advance to receive the zoom link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Visit the church's website for the Zoom links and for more information:

<https://firstpreshc.org/wednesday-study-groups/>

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC NEWS

COME SING IN CHOIR!

Chancel Choir Rehearsals, no experience necessary.

- Rehearsals: *Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*, Sanctuary
- *Please bring a mask & be fully vaccinated to participate.

Contact Matt in the Music Office (mmay@firstpreshc.org) for more information and/or to participate.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

No experience necessary.

- Rehearsals: *Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*, Choir Room (Room 210)
- *Please bring a mask & be fully vaccinated to participate.

Contact Matt in the Music Office (mmay@firstpreshc.org) for more information and/or to participate.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children, youth and adults of all ages takes place every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. There's a class for YOU! There is no Sunday School TODAY November 27.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PJ LOCK-IN

Saturday, December 10 – Sunday, December 11

5th through 12th graders are invited to wear their favorite Christmas (or any) PJ's and come to the church to celebrate the season with friends on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. We will play holiday games, order pizza, and have a great time together! On Sunday, December 11 we will attend 8:30 a.m. worship together. Pick-up will be after Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Please bring anything you need to stay overnight (including a sleeping bag and pillow), a snack to share, and the permission postcard you should receive in the mail. Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (churchoffice@firstpreshc.org).

YOUTH GROUP

5th through 12th graders are invited to gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for Youth Group from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We'll provide dinner the 2nd Wednesday of the month, you bring dinner the 4th Wednesday. We'll provide dinner on *Wednesday, December 14*.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2022

Children age 2 through 5th grade are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, "The Good News Broadcast," on Sunday, December 18th during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Pageant preparation takes place during Ark & L.I.F.E. Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. on November 13th & 20th and December 4th & 11th. To participate, children should attend as many Sunday rehearsals as possible. Lyric sheets and song lists are available to extend practice to home.

For costumes:

- Angels should wear white or cream clothing. The church will provide halos, wings, and a white robe.
- Shepherds should come dressed in a homemade shepherd costume or wear plain tan, brown, or black clothing. The church has a collection of shepherd robes and head coverings as well as shepherd crooks.
- Costumes will be provided for the Wise Kings, Mary, & Joseph. They should wear plain white, cream, tan, or black clothing to go underneath.
- The Ark Children will be stable animals – sheep, donkeys, camels, etc. Costumes are available but families are welcome to use their own animal costumes if they prefer. If using one of the church's costumes, children should wear white, cream, tan, or black clothing the day of the Pageant as pant legs and sleeves will be visible.

We need help to make the Pageant run smoothly! If you are able to attend the Sunday School rehearsals in December, we will give you an assignment! Please contact Amy or Virginia (churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) with any questions.

ANNUAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has turned in a 2023 Commitment Form as part of the Church's Annual Response Program, **GIVING TOGETHER**. The amounts committed, estimated, or pledged will be the basis for the Session's plans for the Church's work in the coming year, 2023.

If you weren't able to turn in your form and would still like to do it, you could place your response form in the Joash Box (now located in the Church office), or in the offering plate during worship, or by filling out the 2023 Commitment Form online, at <https://firstpreshc.org/giving-together-2023>.

Forms will be in the pew racks through December 18; also, at the Welcome Desk in the Upper Commons.

The Church's calling and mission is bigger than any one person. As a community of faith, we worship, study, learn, and work *together* to accomplish our goals in Christ's service.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DOING GOD'S WORK

Actual Income as of November 16, 2022	\$748,201.56
Actual Expenses as of November 16, 2022	<u>795,515.42</u>
Total	(\$47,313.86)

It takes an average of \$2,198.00 to fund the daily budgeted operation and mission of the church. The total surplus/deficit shown above is (22) days ahead/(behind).

(this information is current at time of printing on November 18, 2022)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING TO THE CHURCH

We are passing the offering plates during worship again! Can't make it to church? There are other ways you can make contributions and pledges. **FIND OUT** here, <http://www.firstpreshc.org/giving/> Thank you for all the ways you support the Church!

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CHURCH

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County has adopted the Center for Disease Control's guidelines for indoor mask use. The guidance is tethered to the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for Howard County and will change as conditions around us change.

The current **Covid-19 Community Level for Howard County appears in the Friday email and on the church's website**. Please refer to one of those places for the CDC guidance for face coverings in the church building and county.

You can find the full CDC guidance for masks and face coverings on their website, here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR



The holidays are right around the corner and the Alternative Gift Fair is back! The past 2 years have taught us what is important: using our gifts to bring hope and grace to a fallen world, and being together in fellowship. You can contribute towards both of those goals by participating in this year's AGF!

This year's in-person AGF will be held in Lyle Buck Hall **Saturday, December 3rd**, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and **Sunday, December 4th** 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You'll be able to shop for alternative gifts, purchase fair trade gifts, and participate in Children's Corner. Fairly traded Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, and olive oil will be sold and the Presbyterian Women will be hosting a bake sale. Whether AGF has been your family tradition, you are looking for a way to make your holidays less commercial, or you are now ready to come back inside the church building - please join us at the Alternative Gift Fair. (If you prefer online shopping for fair trade items from SERRV, see the link below.) And invite your friends and neighbors!

Alternative Gifts: Gift cards and descriptive inserts for a variety of local, national, and international charities will be available. When you donate, you pick up a card to send to the recipient and the AGF team takes care of passing the donations on to the organizations.

The **Children's Corner** is a separate section of the AGF where young shoppers (college age and younger) can pick out and wrap gifts for loved ones without adults seeing what they purchased! For younger children, an adult simply makes a list of the family, friends, teachers and others that the child will be shopping for, set a total budget (items will cost between \$1 and \$12), and then let the child do the rest. Shopping assistants are available to help children who need assistance, so even very young children can participate. All Children's Corner gifts are high-quality fair trade items from around the world – you won't be disappointed! We offered children's shopping appointments the past two years; they are NOT necessary, but if you prefer to schedule a specific time to shop, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Children2022>

Fair Trade Shopping: In our first year back in-person, our selection of fair trade items is smaller than in previous years because SERRV is no longer offering a consignment program. However, we do have a selection of gift items including a large order of SERRV's soup mixes, tea, seasoning blends and other food items. If you want to shop in advance for wider selection of gifts (or if you don't find what you wanted at AGF), you can shop directly on SERRV's website. Our church has a unique link serrv.org?a=AGF22. **Be sure to use the link because we earn 20% from your purchases, which raises funds for the church's Guatemala Project.** You will shop and check out like a regular website, and items will be shipped directly to your door. You can use the SERRV link anytime between now and December 13. **Free shipping is available for orders over \$50 with the code SESHIP22.**

Credit cards, cash and checks will be accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the Fair; no skills or experience needed! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/AGF2022> For more information about the Fair or to volunteer, send an email to agf@firstpreshc.org, ask Becky Torrance, Kathy Woods or Mandy Foust, or call the church office.

DEACONS NEWS

THANK YOU!

The Deacons would like to thank all of those who donated food and resources to the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. With the generosity of the congregation, the Faithful Circle Quilters, Boy Scouts and other groups that meet at the church, we were able to help 68 families celebrate the season!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS ARE BACK!

Sponsored by The Deacons

Sunday, November 20, 2022 – Sunday, December 11, 2022

Share the spirit and joy of Christmas with families in need by filling a stocking for a child. The Deacons provide the Christmas stockings, which are distributed to children through Luminus and the Salvation Army.

Stockings will be available for pick up in the Lower Commons starting on Sunday, November 20.

All stockings must be returned no later than Sunday, December 11.

Luminus requests efforts to be gender neutral, noting the need to be flexible. Since many of the families lack basic needs, they ask that the stockings' contents be practical and celebratory.

Items can include:

- toiletries - tooth brushes & tooth paste, combs & brushes
- hats, mittens/gloves
- picture frame
- pens / pencils / markers
- flashlight
- small games / toys
- books / activity books *(Based on the families being of many faiths and agnostic, Luminus kindly requests that they are not religious-themed.)*
- sweets/nuts/fruits

If you would like further information, please speak with Deacon Sarah Reinhardt. If you are unable to come to the church building to pick up a stocking, but would like to participate, please email churchoffice@firstpreshc.org and we can help get you signed up.

A heartfelt thank you to Faithful Circle Quilters for making the stockings. And, thank you to the congregation in advance for your participation!

ADVENT INFORMATION 2022

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Please order a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season. The cost is \$16.00 per plant.

Deadline for orders is **TODAY Sunday, November 27, 2022**

Go to: <https://firstpreshc.org/poinsettia-orders/> to order poinsettias. Please list your dedication in the appropriate space on SignUpGenius.

Poinsettias can be picked up at the church:

- after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24
- after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 25

OR – leave your poinsettia to be delivered by the Deacons.

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



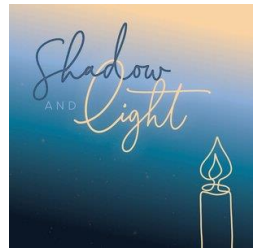
ADVENT IS HERE! ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent and we will light candles on the Advent Wreath all four Sundays of Advent at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. If you and your family or friends (small group of 2-5 people) would like to lead worship by lighting the candles, email Pastor Sue, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org or call the church office or sign-up at the Welcome Desk. Practicing in advance of Sunday morning is recommended. Those who lead at 10:30 a.m. hybrid service must give consent to appear on FaceBook and YouTube.

ADVENT "SHADOW + LIGHT" ADULT DEVOTIONAL

Our new devotional for Advent will help you prepare yourself for the birth of the Christ child, finding what is holy in the spectrum from shadow to light. Pick up a print copy of the devotional in the Upper Commons or join our [Facebook Devotional Discussion group](#) (search "FPC-HC Devotional Discussion Group") where it will be posted daily. We are also happy to send you a copy of the devotional in the mail or by email. *Advent starts on Sunday, November 27* so make sure to pick up your copy today!

Questions? Email Virginia Callegary (churchoffice@firstpreshc.org).



ADVENT DATES AT A GLANCE!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Help decorate the church for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring your friends and neighbors! Music brings everybody together!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18, 2022 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service

See announcement under Christian Education News.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Winter Solstice, December 21, is the longest and darkest night of the year. We gather in our Sanctuary for an Advent worship service that yearns for the light of Christ to dawn. We hope you will come. And as has become our norm for gathering, please wear a mask and wear a sweater because the Sanctuary windows will be open.

The Service for the Longest Night is a time of sharing in hope. Together we sing, we listen, we light candles, and we share in silent meditation and reflection. We pray for a world of peace.

More details to come!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOURS on Sundays

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

* *November 27 – Fellowship/Coffee Hour, Lydia Circle hosting*

* *December 4 – **No Fellowship/Coffee Hour** please visit the Alternative Gift Fair.*

* *December 11 – Fellowship/Coffee Hour, Ruth Circle hosting*

* *December 18 – **Cookies, Cocoa and Carols!***

Come to Lyle Buck Hall to decorate cookies and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa while singing along to favorite Christmas carols! What could be more fun on a cold December day!

* *December 25 – Christmas Day – **No Fellowship/Coffee Hour***

Enjoy your family after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

* *January 1 – **New Year's Day Brunch***

Come celebrate the New Year with family and friends as we enjoy a meal together! Breakfast will be served following the 10:00 a.m. service in Lyle Buck Hall. We promise lots of pancakes and coffee

The Church Office and Building are now open. The Church Office is open from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The outside doors are locked during this time, please call the church office, 410-730-3545, when you arrive. Please contact the Church Administrator, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org if you need access to the church building at other times.

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 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, December 8, 2022 for January 2023 events**. Then watch your inbox every week!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Adults

10:30 a.m. Worship – Hybrid Worship

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

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/firstpreshc/live

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

LINKS CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE www.firstpreshc.org

CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO COME TO CHURCH OFFICE

MONDAY – FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

(THE OUTSIDE DOORS WILL BE LOCKED, PLEASE CALL UPON ARRIVAL FOR ENTRY.)

DEACONS CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION THROUGH DECEMBER 11.

Sunday, November 27th

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-ups
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Hybrid
Godly Play & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour
- 5:00 p.m. South Asian Language (Urdu) Worship Service

Monday, November 28th

- 7:30 p.m. Playback Theater

Tuesday, November 29th

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 30th

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Study Group
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Study Group via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1st

- 9:00 a.m. ROMEOS Breakfast
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 2nd

- 9:00 a.m. Set-up Alternative Gift Fair
- 1:00 p.m. Fold Bulletins

Saturday, December 3rd

FIRST PRES PRIDE DAY – WEAR YOUR T-SHIRTS

- 9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens
- 10:00 a.m. Alternative Gift Fair until 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMMUNION

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Alternative Gift Fair
- 9:45 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-ups
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Hybrid
Godly Play & Worship Bridge
- 11:30 a.m. Discipleship Hour
- 5:00 p.m. South Asian Language (Urdu) Worship Service