



FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMMUNITY News

APRIL 2022



210 W MADISON STREET | BALTIMORE, MD 21201 | (410) 728-5545 | FIRSTFRANKLIN.ORG

APRIL CALENDAR

March 9 – April 13

Shorter Lenten Vespers will be held in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 6pm from March 9th to April 13th (Lent)

April 3

Communion and Betrayal
Luke 9: 51-62. Luke 22: 14-23.

April 10 | Palm Sunday

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29. Luke 19:28-40.

April 15

Good Friday Tenebrae Service | 7:00 pm

April 17 | Easter Sunday

Luke 24: 1-12. I Corinthians 15: 35-49.

April 24 | Earth Sabbath Sunday

(Earth Day, April 22)
Ezekiel 37: 1-14. Acts 27: 9-26.

New members welcomed in worship

April 29

Leigh Newman book celebration

April 29 & 30

Rummage Sale from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

May 1

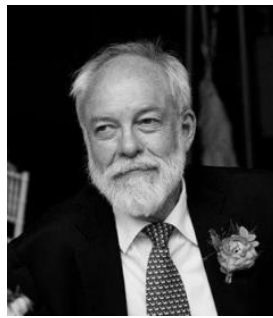
Mayday & James
James 1: 22-2:7. James 2: 14-20; 5: 1-6.

Piano Marathon | 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Reminders:

- Please sign up for Easter Flowers
- For Easter Breakfast, you may bring your own specialties to add to the joyful meal

“A BANNER YEAR? A BURIED LEDE?”



Nothing against *The Baltimore Sun*. I particularly like Jacques Kelly and Dan Rodricks. However, I am also rooting for the new *Baltimore Banner*, set to start up later this year. It is a non-profit to be focusing on local Baltimore and Maryland news, areas that have been cut back by successive owners of the *Sun*. The chief funder for the *Banner*, Stewart Bainum, Jr., had tried to buy the *Sun* when it was sold most recently from one newspaper-aggregator to another. His determination to provide more adequate news coverage to our city and state are to be admired.

Just to illustrate a news hole, the March 19 interfaith and ecumenical ceremony at the Basilica to celebrate religious liberty in Maryland, with the Mayor, the head of the State Assembly, historic pageantry, hosted by the Archbishop... received no coverage. In fact, it was a substantial history lesson punctuated by remarks from a scholar of African-Americans in the Revolution, the consuls general from France and Great Britain, and an eighth-generation Calvert, with representation from 12 Maryland heritage organizations. I spoke briefly and carried a walking stick big in history and Jason Kissel played about 12 pieces on their organ, including 3 national anthems. Remarkable event, no reporters. (See my remarks, p. 2).

Mr. Bainum served in the State Assembly—where he feels more light is needed—and as a philanthropist for US and overseas concerns. He has hired proven talent who are building the newsroom, but of course they are taking many risks. One is doing it on-line, as an all digital “paper.” Another is betting that Baltimore and Maryland do not want to remain semi-covered colonies of *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. The *Banner* is going to create its own neighborhood-spangled cultural and political niche.

This is not just a current-Baltimore-event. Matthew Crenson, an emeritus Johns Hopkins political scientist, spent 5 years in the city archives researching, *Baltimore: A Political History* (2017). Among his findings, the city has been under-governed, under-capitalized, and under-developed, even when it grew in population and wealth. The neighborhoods give charm but not overall coherence. Even crime should be better organized, with too many gangs (un)policing too many turf boundaries, piling up the gun deaths. Could the *Banner* help pull the city more together?

continued on next page

The *Banner* may go down trying to help Baltimore and Maryland go up. But isn't that the right effort? Isn't that First & Franklin's fight, too? We are a faith community but also a cultural institution and, sometimes frustratingly, a human organization. We go down, too, regardless of the trends, if we are not a vehicle for sharing God's life and love.

A "lede" is often the first sentence of an article, summarizing the core of story, but sometimes the lede is buried elsewhere in an article. One of the most enduring stories is that of the "come back," the renaissance, the revival, the renewal of hope. We admire underdogs fighting uphill battles, unsung heroes, outnumbered Ukrainians, unarmed protesters, unexpected reversals. Jesus is the un-buried, resurrected lede of this story. On Easter, we will say, He is Risen! We will pray for every other body and soul who need to rise. And in faith, we know that his resurrection stands for every resurrection and that we need them all.

In the faith that we share,
Rev. Chris Iosso, PhD, Interim Minister

REPORT ON THE MARYLAND DAY CEREMONY At the Basilica, March 19, 2022



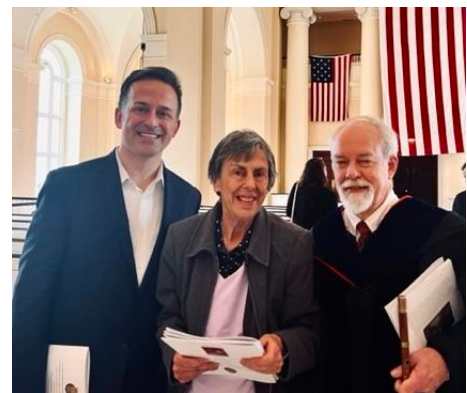
In the picture of ministers, priests, and imam participating, as we gathered in the sacristy before the service, the chief organizer, J. Scott Watkins can be seen in the background. He deserves great credit for conceiving a complex yet coherent event, mixing history, the dedication of a symbolic object, and current concerns for religious liberty and racial justice. The symbolic object was a gavel made from wood from the Wye Oak and Liberty Tree, natural markers known from accounts and pictures of early colonial Maryland. This was to symbolize just governance and order, addressed well by Archbishop Lori, host of the event, and dedicated partly through a litany by the faith community representatives.

There was also the celebration, partly memorial, to the role of the Maryland 400, the "Old Line," a part of the Continental Army that suffered grave casualties in allowing the bulk of Washington's Army to escape British forces in a Revolutionary War battle. A number of re-enactors and representatives of heritage groups, including a descendant of Lord Calvert, recalled the contribution of heroism during that war to the achievement of independence. In that connection, and to mark reconciliation over time, both British and French consuls general came up from Washington, DC, to represent their nations' perspectives. Three national anthems were thus played by Jason Kissel, among many other grand hymns; he took this picture from the organ loft:



The role of Patrick Allison, first pastor of First Presbyterian Church, was recognized, and I spoke partly in his name and flourished the walking stick George Washington gave him for his service as Chaplain to the Continental Congress and Army after it moved South from Philadelphia. (See my excerpting of Allison's views elsewhere in this newsletter.) Pdfs of the well-illustrated 16 page program of the event are available from the office.

Our Church Historian, Ms. Mary McLanahan, a collateral descendent of Patrick Allison, was able to be present along with Drs. Kissel and Iosso.



By Rev. Christian T. Iosso, PhD., Interim Minister

PATRICK ALLISON ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

These comments and quotations were prepared for the Wye Oak Gavel Dedication Ceremony at the Baltimore Basilica, March 19, 2022, and were adapted extensively in presentation.

I am honored to represent the First & Franklin Presbyterian Church and our first pastor, the Rev. Patrick Allison. I carry with me the walking stick given to Patrick Allison by then-General George Washington, leader of the Continental Army. Rev. Allison served as a chaplain to the army and to the Continental Congress when it had to flee Philadelphia during the Revolution. The head of the walking stick has his initials and it is circled with brass bands, each representing a called minister of the church since Allison.

Allison and all my predecessors would support the commitment to religious liberty, political independence, and courage marked by today's ceremony. Allison published influential articles against the establishment of any religion in Maryland when Governor Paca tried to re-establish Anglicanism soon after peace with Great Britain. I quote his words honoring the sacrifices of the troops as well as arguing for "impartial liberty" in our new country. Allison wrote this in 1784:

"We have just accomplished a Revolution which is and will be the admiration of (hu)mankind till all human glory passeth away... By our means, an uncommon illumination has spread over the whole civilized earth, penetrating even its dark and intolerant regions of gloomy superstition. While the war continued, when weakening fear prevailed on almost every side, Maryland was distinguished by the wisdom and vigor of her councils, the unanimity of her citizens, the number and valor of her troops. Shall she tarnish her dear bought honors... Shall she obscure the splen-dor of 'America's rising' by an admission of unjust distinctions and impolitic discriminations, which encroach upon the indefeasible privileges of her resolute, virtuous, obedient citizens?...

Their own liberal contributions and intrepid exertions in the late hostile scene, say no; the blood of numerous heroes shed for equal impartial liberty says no; an immortal leader [George Washington] says no; who has been the chosen instrument of doing more for the salvation of this country than ever before fell the lot of a

human being,-- who has saved her to be an asylum for the poor and oppressed of all nations and all religions....

If, looking across the river [Potomac] that enriches and adorns his peaceful retreat [the original Mount Vernon], he should behold ecclesiastical usurpation raising her hideous head and spreading her hateful, malignant influence around; the God of Heaven says no, who having heretofore signally interposed in their favor and entrusted to their keeping the fair inheritance of impartial freedom, expects and commands them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith he has made them free."**

Thank you for welcoming this Presbyterian pastor (Allison) to this dedication today.

** (From *Our Church Work*, First Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Jan. 1906, pp. 4-5, quoting from Patrick Allison's pamphlet under the name, "Vindex." That extract's final sentence invokes St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 1. In my remarks I noted that Allison's public advocacy did not appear to have cost him friendships with the future Cardinal Carroll, then a priest, and various Episcopal leaders).

COMMUNICATORS COMMUNE AND PLAN



Prompted by a marketing plan drafted by Dave Pierson, a creative group met after church on March 20th. Because of his use of historical material, Mary McLanahan joined the group which included Steve Hollaway, Dave Pierson, Rachel Walsh, Alex Mendelsohn, Matt Davis, Jason Kissel, Mike Johnson, and Chris Iosso.

Among the suggestions from the group, Session decided to add Communications and Outreach to the Membership Committee, which then gained a couple new members. The discussion of digital social media and various software and tech options led to Finance being given some assignments to assess these options. In both cases, the goal is to broaden the thinking and bring solid proposals to the Session.

TENEBRAE READERS:

REHEARSAL PALM SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH

Those reading in the Tenebrae Service Friday, April 15, at 7pm, are asked to stay after church (coffee available!) to do a quick run-through of the service, without music.

MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY



Last month, Jason Kissel, First & Franklin's Minister of Music & Organist gave a lecture demonstration on the pipe organ to students in the Music Literature classes from Baltimore School for the Arts. The students asked many questions, some played the organ, and Jason concluded with a performance of J.S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor.



SPIRE SERIES

Piano Quartet – Audience Reflections



~ "What a wonderful way to thaw out together from the latest pandemic blast and our most recent "dose" of winter! The third Spire Series concert of the 2021-22 season brought us music of Mozart and G. Faure . . . played by four fine musicians from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Splendid ensemble and tone, Tone, TONE!"

Chamber music of this type (one-on-a-part) is sometimes referred to as "music for intellectuals," but I felt as if I were listening in on intimate conversations of four gifted musicians - friends who were thoroughly enjoying each others' company. Sparkling one minute, moody the next; sometimes just one instrument sounding, then everyone together!

We shared the warmth and beauty of the church in candlelight, the magnificent acoustics of our sanctuary, and the keen attention of a rapt audience. Many thanks to our Minister of Music Jason Kissel and The Spire Series Committee for this inspiring evening of sound - - another gift from a loving God!" -**Dr. Anne E. Culbertson**



~ "I have been seeking out as much live music as possible these past few weeks, up and down the East Coast, and it was wonderful to have one of the best events be right here at First & Franklin. It was truly top notch." -**Alec MacGillis**

~ "Monday's piano quartet was just . . . extraordinary. Thank you for inviting them to share their talent with us!" -**Audrey Suhr**

ANNUAL BALTIMORE PIANO MARATHON

Sunday, May 1, 2022 | 2:00 p.m.



Join us for our 6th Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon as we welcome six pianists: Tian Lu, Michael Angelucci, Jack Dou, Nick Luby, Susan Zhang, Matthew Palumbo. Each artist will take the stage every thirty minutes. The event will also have live emcees Kati Harrison and Mark Malinowski from WBJC 91.5 FM will host.

FOOD PANTRY

The **Food Pantry** continues to offer a useful purpose to those in our neighborhood who are dealing with food insecurity. We are currently being visited by 15-20 people each Saturday. Trust and relationships are growing and we occasionally are able to help out in unexpected ways. For instance, we realized that one person did not have a refrigerator. Simultaneously, a new dorm style refrigerator crossed our path and we were able to deliver it to a happy home. Money and food donations, which our community has so generously contributed, is what makes the pantry work. Please remember us as you shop. The following items tend to run out first:

Paper and Plastic Bags	Tea/Hot Chocolate	Canned Tuna/Chicken
Pasta	Crackers	Cereal
Rice	Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Fruit
Beans	Powdered Milk	Jelly

Odds and Ends items are always fun to give out, such as pancake mix and syrup, snacks, pop corn, salad dressing, seasonal treats, condiments

Thanks to all for your continued support!
Peacemaking Committee

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with the latest church news and exciting pictures! Give our post a like and share it with your friends and family!

[Instagram](#): Firstfranklinpresbyterian

[Facebook](#): Firstfranklinbaltimore

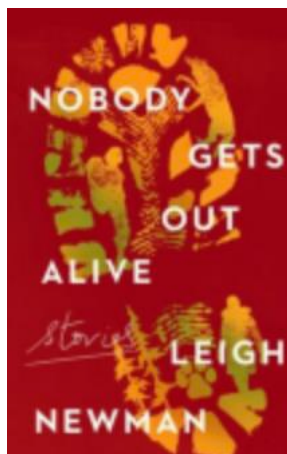
PEACEMAKING 40th ANNIVERSARY MAY 21/22 WEEKEND WITH GLORIA ALBRECHT

The Peacemaking Committee began in 1980 with a conversation between the Janzens and the Schrolls, and expanded to take on many concerns, always willing to advocate and raise funds as needed. While the group is moving forward with plans for a Guns-to-Gardens event on June 11th, focused specifically on gun violence, it is also planning a celebration of the range of other concerns and their meaning for this church.

To help in the planning and thinking ahead, Dr. Gloria Albrecht has been invited and has accepted to be part of two events: a planning discussion after the Food Pantry on April 23, and then a public dialogue about our peacemaking and justice advocacy: lessons from the past and hopes for the future. That event on May 21st may be linked to worship on the 22nd.

Gloria Albrecht joined First & Franklin back in the late 1970's as a teacher with two young children, got active in our social mission, got ordained (serving as Associate Pastor at both Brown Memorial and First & Franklin), got her PhD and then became Professor of Christian Ethics at the University of Detroit/Mercy. She has written books on social ethics, economics, and the family, and has also served on the national level of the church dealing with racial justice and urban challenges. This effort will not be a simple lecture with questions, but an engaging exploration of our calling in Baltimore now and in the future.

SAVE THE DATE



On Friday, April 29th at 6:00 pm Leigh Newman, Diane Newman's daughter and former member, will be celebrating her new book, ***Nobody Gets Out Alive*** with a patio conversation at the Ivy Bookshop. There will be a book reading, signing and patio reception to commemorate this joyous occasion. All are welcome! Ivy Bookshop is located at 5928 Falls Rd. Baltimore, MD 21209.

Nobody Gets Out Alive is a collection of dazzling, courageous stories about women struggling to survive not just grizzly bears and charging moose but the raw, exhausting legacy of their marriages and families. This book is set in Leigh Newman's home state of Alaska.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.theivybookshop.com/upcomingevent/27124>

GUNS TO GARDNES

The Session has approved a **Guns to Gardens** event to be held on Saturday, June 11. The Peacemaking Committee and several other volunteers are excited about the prospects of offering a safe place for Baltimore citizens to be rid of unwanted guns in their homes. In gratitude, gift cards will be offered to the gun donors. These guns will be cut up to make them unusable, never able to harm again. At a later date, the metal from the guns will then be forged into garden tools and other art. We hope to make connections with local community gardens, which involve youth volunteers, as a place to donate future garden tools.

TJ Smith, a former police officer and now spokesperson for the police union, has been helping us make this vision possible. Recently we began conversations with the Baltimore police to lay plans for a safe and secure "gun give-back". Committees are being formed: Police Communication and Logistics, Fundraising/Gift Cards, Publicity, Community Relations, Volunteers, and Community Gardens/Blacksmiths. There is plenty of room for you to be involved, either on a committee, in giving us leads to businesses who might be interested in donating to the project, and/or to volunteer on June 11. Please contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in becoming involved or if you want to hear more about the Guns to Garden project to share with your friends.

Ruth Paradise, Judy Dadds, David Sargent, Anne Silverman, Steve Holloway, Paula Crews, Corena Bridges, Diane Newman, Liz Dicembre, and Betty Schroll

RUMMAGE SALE FURNITURE MOVERS

On March 12, a group of volunteers helped Becca Hollaway move furniture in Allison House down to the first floor. More volunteers are invited to help her re-finish some of these pieces—please call the church office or email: Information@firstfranklin.org. If you have a pick-up or minivan, we could also use your help in picking up furniture and other donations (!!!). The rummage sale will take place on April 29th and 30th from 10:00am – 5:00pm.



Lee Schenk, Jun Luke Foster, Charles Whitehead, Mike Johnson, Steve Hollaway, David Sargent, Nathan Hollaway, and Becca Hollaway

INQUIRERS AND NEW MEMBERS

On April 3, after church, there will be a lunch after church for those considering membership or who already plan to join. Two or three Session members will be part of the group. The focus will be on what the church is being called to do—as an expression of its spirit and values—its ethos. No church is called to exist simply for itself.

Yes, we have our Presbyterian distinctives, yet each congregation is also unique and changing. Thus anyone becoming a member is joining a community and taking part in the shared leadership—this is a democratic enterprise of informed people, committed to growing in faith and making a witness in our city.

The actual joining ceremony will be in the worship service on April 24th, when we will also be celebrating environmental concerns (following Earth Day, April 22). Maybe we should say, this is about being “rooted and grounded in love” (Ephesians 3:17). Becoming a member is choosing to be rooted in a particular way, and it goes against the grain of our individualism, but it says we need communities of loyalty over time.

Presbyterian polity also recognizes Affiliate Members, who may remain members of another church to which they plan to return at some point in the future.

RUMMAGE FOR RESTORATION

APRIL 29TH & 30TH - FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN

DONATE YOUR GENTLY-USED GOODS TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE RESTORATION OF OUR BELOVED CHURCH SPIRE



INVITATION TO JOIN THE “TABLE GUILD”

The Worship, Music, & Arts Committee of Session is recruiting volunteers to prepare the Sanctuary (and occasionally the Chapel) for worship services. Please consider prayerfully if this might be a way for you to support the beauty, order, and dignity of our worship at First & Franklin.

Regular weekly tasks could include:

- Placing linens, candles, and offering plates on the Communion Table
- Placing candles and purple ribbons on the smaller table
- Lighting candles on both tables before worship when possible
- Placing the liturgically appropriate hangings on the pulpit
- Placing flowers on the pulpit or Table, or on the wooden flower stands
- Placing a cross on or in front of the Table
- Checking that the morning’s Scripture readings are marked in the pulpit Bible.

On Communion Sundays (currently the first Sunday of each month, with occasional other dates as approved by Session), the Guild would:

Prepare the Communion elements of bread and juice in the dishes appropriate to the method of distribution (in-pew or intinction)

Provide the loaf of bread which is broken by the pastor during the Communion service.

[Note: Worship, Music, & Arts is considering the option of serving only gluten- and nut-free bread at Communion, and of having the bread baked by volunteers at home.]

To make this lay ministry effective and reverent, our volunteers will need to meet with our Sexton, George Meagher, to learn where the hangings, ribbons, linens, offering plates, and Communion silver are stored, and how to handle the dishes and prepare the elements hygienically. This work will have to be carried out before worship without interfering with George’s other duties on campus. Volunteers will also work closely with the pastor, understanding their work in support of the pastor’s teaching and leadership in worship. The church office will send reminders to volunteers a few days before the Sundays they will serve.

If you would like to join in this effort, please contact WM&A chair John McLucas (at JCMcL1532@aol.com) and Tiarra Rush (trush@firstfranklin.org). We will find a time when volunteers can meet with George and with Chris Iosso for orientation.



Birthdays

1 – Alison Halsey	13 – Anne Silbermann
2 – Jack Hodges	18 – Ron Spruill
2 – Audrey Suhr	22 – Jim Schroll
11 – Nkem Anaedozie	27 – Taylor Brooks
12 – Sabrina Schumann	30 – Lola Amin
13 – Rol Anders	

CALL FOR USHERS, LITURGISTS, & FELLOWSHIP



We need **YOUR** help to fill our schedule with ushers, liturgists, and fellowship.

Please consider this donation of your time as part of your gift to your church. Please reach out to the Worship Committee or the Church Office to sign up! Sign-up Sheets are also available on Sunday during Fellowship Hour in Reid Chapel or in the Narthex before service.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS & IDEAS!



We would love to receive and share your news in the upcoming Newsletters. Do you have milestone events to share – graduations, weddings, family updates? Please send them to the church office. You can call, email or use the Contact Us link on the website.

Please submit all entries for the March Newsletter by Monday, April 25th, 2022

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2022

FIRST & FRANKLIN

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

09

MAR

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
LENTEN VESPERS
THRU 4/12**

REID MEMORIAL CHAPEL | 6:00 PM

10

APR

PALM SUNDAY

MAIN SANCTUARY | 10:30 AM

15

APR

**GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE OF TENEBRAE**

MAIN SANCTUARY | 7:00 PM

17

APR

EASTER BREAKFAST

BACKUS HOUSE | 9:00 AM

EASTER DAY WORSHIP

MAIN SANCTUARY | 10:10 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT THE OFFICE

WWW.FIRSTFRANKLIN.ORG | 410.728.5545 | 210 W MADISON ST. BALTIMORE, MD 21201