



**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 7, 2021**

**MEDITATION**

Eternal God,  
you have called us to be members of one body.  
Join us with those  
who in all times and places have praised your name,  
that, with one heart and mind,  
we may show the unity of your church,  
and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

Prelude on the Hymn Tune *Union Seminary*  
Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock  
(1934-2012)

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Susan Haugh, *liturgist***

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Susan Haugh, *liturgist***

**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.**

**Praise the Lord.**

**The Lord's name be praised.**

*Hymn singing is vital to our community life. Although distanced from one another, we can be united through song.  
Join in singing the hymns with the recorded voices of our Choir and organ.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Susan Haugh, *liturgist*

O God, you are infinite,  
eternal and unchangeable, glorious in holiness,  
full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth.  
Your works everywhere praise you, and your glory is revealed  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Therefore we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, forever and  
ever. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE 145**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION



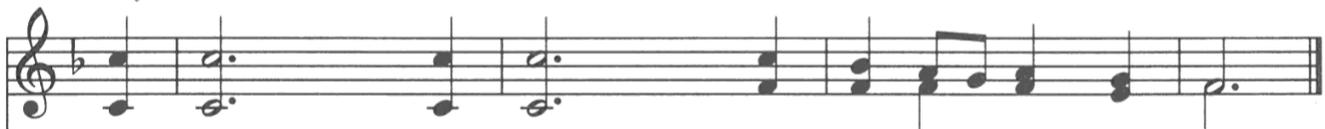
- 1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
- 2. Yes, on through life's long path, Still chant-ing as ye go;
- 3. At last the march shall end; The wea - ried ones shall rest;
- 4. Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Your fes - tal ban-ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.  
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad-ness and in woe.  
The pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.  
Your fes - tal ban-ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.



*Refrain*



Re - joice! re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Re - joice! re - joice!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Haugh, *liturgist*

God of mercy,  
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride,  
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love,  
neglected justice,  
and ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## KYRIE

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have  
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy;  
Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)  
C F/A Am B<sup>b</sup> C Dm

(G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup> F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Susan Haugh, *liturgist*

The Lord God said:  
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;  
I will remove from you your heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.  
Sisters and brothers: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes."  
Hear the good news: Through Christ,  
our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

**RESPONSE TO OUR FORGIVENESS** (*sing twice with joy*)

In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

Taizé Community

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -  
joyce! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your  
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near." There are triplets marked with a '3' above the notes in the second and third systems.

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Susan Haugh, *liturgist*

God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey,  
help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change and growth,  
that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 20

Susan Haugh, *liturgist*

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!  
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
May he send you help from the sanctuary,  
and give you support from Zion.  
May he remember all your offerings,  
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. *Selah*  
May he grant you your heart's desire,  
and fulfill all your plans.

May we shout for joy over your victory,  
and in the name of our God set up our banners.  
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.  
Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.  
Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.  
They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.  
Give victory to the king, O Lord;  
answer us when we call.

**SOLO**

The Call *from* Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

**John McLucas**, *baritone*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert  
(1593-1633)

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

Dear Lord, Creator, Good and Kind

REPTON

C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888

Dear Lord, Creator, good and kind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow Thee, rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace, the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb. let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm!

~John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**Marianne Shick**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please use the chat forum to enter your prayers and we will share those as a part of our communal worship.*

O God, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayers.**

## PURPLE RIBBON LIST

03/04/2021	Preston Hill	-	Male	Unknown
03/04/2021	Kendrick Hasty	-	Male	Black

*Each ribbon represents a life lost to homicide in Baltimore City. We name them each week and hang a purple ribbon on the outside of Park Ave. to remind us to pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence, and to remind us of our calling to challenge the systemic injustices of our time.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day  
    our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not  
    into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
    and the power,  
    and the glory,  
    forever. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

**Susan Haugh, liturgist**

*See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.*

*If you wish to give via Paypal, you will need to open a new tab on your browser.*

*If you need assistance please request help from either of our E-Ushers:*

*Allie Pyan alexandra.pyan@gmail.com or Sabrina Schlosser Schumann ssschuma@gmail.com*

*If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 West Madison Street, Baltimore MD 21201. Offerings will be processed weekly.*

## AT THE OFFERTORY

Les Barricades Mystérieuses

François Couperin  
(1668-1733)

**Sarah Buskirk**, *harpsichord*

*Ms. Buskirk was a high school intern in the Sanctuary Choir at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church while a student at Baltimore School for the Arts. Presently, she is a sophomore at Peabody Conservatory.*

## DOXOLOGY 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west,  
and from north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,

when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,  
and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened  
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things  
and sustain them by your power.

You formed us in your image,

setting us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation.

When we rebelled against you  
refusing to trust and obey you,  
you did not reject us,

but still claimed us as your own.

You sent prophets to call us back to your way.

Then in the fullness of time,

out of your great love for the world, you sent your only Son to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness.

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with choirs of angels,

with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,

and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break

and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

that we may be one with all who share this feast,

united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,

send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Keep us faithful in your service

until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal

realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,

until he comes.

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

Because there is one loaf,  
we, many as we are, are one body;  
for it is one loaf of which we all partake.  
The gifts of God  
for the people of God.

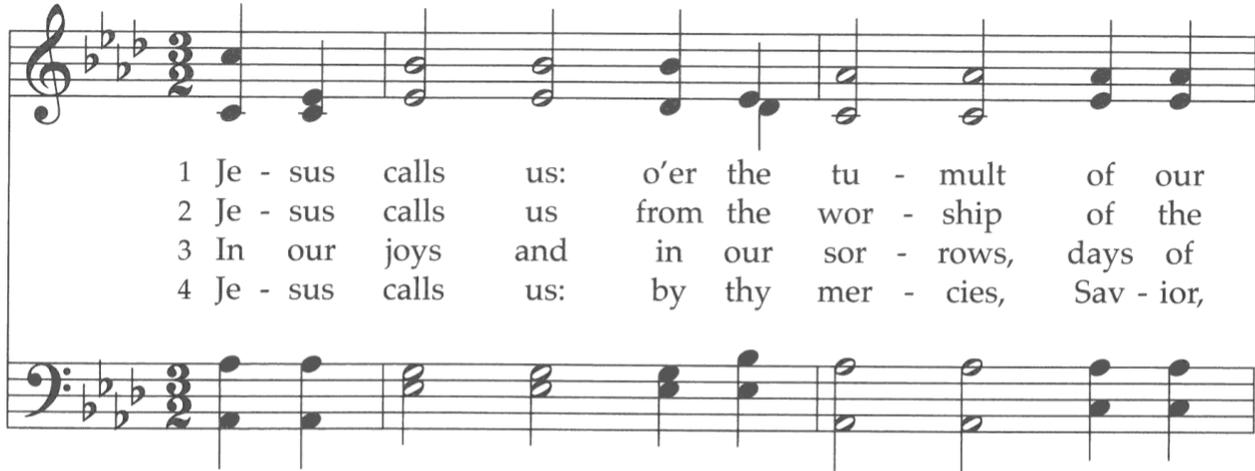
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God,  
you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.  
Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup,  
to be his faithful disciples  
so that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom,  
and our love be your love  
reaching out into the life of the world;  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

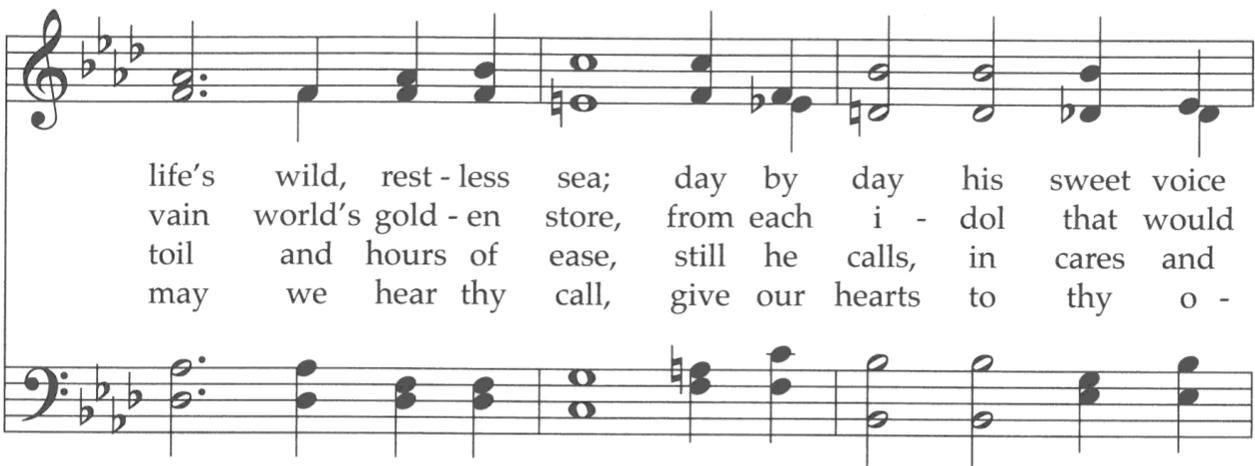
## SENDING HYMN

### Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Chaconne

Louis Couperin  
(c. 1626-1661)

## ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

We invite you to join us in our small breakout groups to visit after the service. Just stay on the Zoom call and you will be added to a group. This is a great way to welcome and meet new people, reconnect with friends and chat about whatever is on your mind!

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

**Rev. Dr. John Schmidt**, *Guest Preacher*

**Susan Haugh**, *liturgist*

**Jason Kissel**, *organist*

**Quartet**

**Marianne Shick**, *soprano* ~ **Sandra Smith**, *alto*

**Don Juedes**, *tenor* ~ **Michael Manganiello**, *baritone*

**Sarah Buskirk**, *offertory recording*

**John McLucas**, *solo recording*

~ ~ ~

**STAFF**

**Jason Kissel**, *DMA, Minister of Music & Organist*

**Taylor Brooks**, *tech support*

**George Meagher**, *Sexton*

**Wanda Morgan**, *Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator*

*The church office is open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday*

*Office: 410-728-5545 Fax: 410-728-0722*

*information@firstfranklin.org*

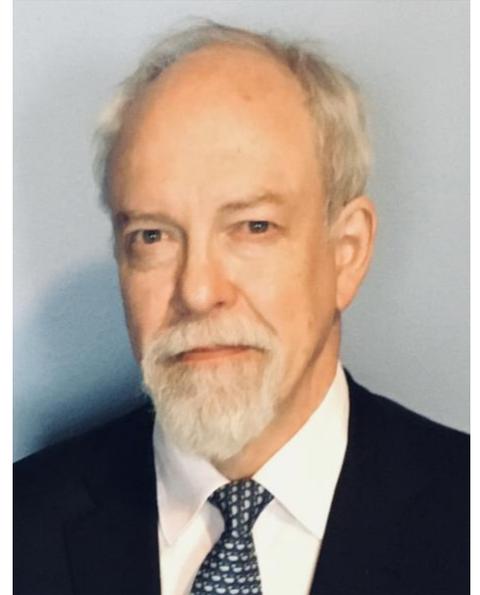
*firstfranklin.org*

March 1, 2021	\$ 2103.88
March PayPal	\$ 300.00

## INTERIM PASTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

The Session of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church is very pleased to announce that it has unanimously agreed to hire the Reverend Christian T. Iosso, PhD. to serve as our Interim Pastor. He brings a wealth of experience, and a real energy and enthusiasm to the position. Session is looking forward to his leadership.

Rev. Iosso (pronounced eye-oh-so) is a minister and Christian ethicist who has served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a pastor and member of the denomination's national staff. For almost 13 years he was pastor of the Scarborough (NY) Presbyterian Church, a congregation with some similarities to First & Franklin. He then became Coordinator of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy for 14.5 years, supervising many studies of social-ethical concerns, including several reports on urban ministry. Prior to those longer calls, he received his PhD from Union Theological Seminary in New York City while teaching part-time for Mercy College and NY Theological Seminary at Sing Sing Prison and other campuses. And before that academic period, he staffed corporate social responsibility work for the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church in New York City.



Chris has edited or co-edited several books, including *Prayers for the New Social Awakening* (2008) and *Christian Ethics in Conversation* (2020), and authored *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace* (2017).

He received his BA at Johns Hopkins University (1973-76) and his Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary (1976-79). He is originally from New Providence, NJ, and is the father of three adult children: Caleb, Jacob, and Caroline; and one grandchild, Genevieve.

Part of his attraction to First & Franklin was through his wife, the Rev. Robin Hogle, who was a member of our church prior to going to seminary, 25 years ago. She served as pastor and prison chaplain in Virginia and New York and is now the Pediatric Intensive Care and Cardiac Chaplain for Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville. Chris will occupy half of the second floor of Backus House and commute back to Louisville several days per month, remaining available for virtual meetings, email, and consultation as needed. Robin will certainly visit Baltimore, a city where she lived for 11 years and still considers her hometown.

Chris's first Sunday of preaching will be March 14th, and there will be a chance to meet him during an already scheduled after-church event (more on that in this week's Update and Sunday bulletin). Please plan on being with us on March 14th to welcome Chris and Robin back to Baltimore and First & Franklin.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Because of the recent upsurge in COVID cases, and in order to provide a consistent schedule, Session has decided to suspend worship in the sanctuary through the end of March. Virtual worship will continue using the Zoom and Facebook platforms. While we regret this step back from in-person worship, we believe it is necessary to protect the health of our guest preachers, others facilitating worship, and worshippers. Session will review this decision by the end of March.**

### **REV. DR. JOHN SCHMIDT, GUEST PREACHER**

Dr. John Schmidt was most recently the Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, in Baltimore Presbytery, and served there for 17 years. Before that, he and his wife, Debbie, were PCUSA missionaries to Japan for 10 years, serving as evangelistic missionaries with the United Church of Christ in Japan. He is now honorably retired and living in Towson. He currently serves as a Trustee of Baltimore Presbytery, and on the Administration Committee.

### **SESSION UPDATE - Revitalizing Our Committees**

As noted in last week's Session Update, the Session is committed to helping each our committees return to full and active participation in completing the work of the church. In order to achieve that goal, we are asking for members and friends of the church to join in by committing to work on one short-term project.

We have two types of committees - Defined and Open. Membership on the Nominating and Personnel Committees are defined by our operating practices and by-laws. Congregational members of the Nominating Committee are elected by the Congregation each year. Because of the need to protect employees' rights, membership on the Personnel Committee is restricted to Session members.

Each of the other committees is open to any and all members and friends of the congregation, and that is where we seek your participation. There is a description of each committee's mission below, and we are asking that you consider which one best matches your talents and interests.

Our hope is that we can grow participation through the successful achievement of specific goals. Next week's Weekly Update and Bulletin will contain a description of one or two short-term projects that each committee would like to complete. We would like members and friends to commit to helping one committee to accomplish that. Following worship next week, we will ask you to pick a fellowship group centered on one of the committees to talk about their projects and meet others with similar interests.

As an extra incentive, next Sunday will be the first time that our new Interim Pastor, Chris Iosso, will be leading worship. He is excited to join us and pleased to see that we are trying to make our church structure more effective. Chris will move between the fellowship groups so that each of you will have a chance to greet him in a setting where you can introduce yourselves and learn a little bit more about him.

So, please, review the committee goals below; look for and consider the short-term projects in next week's Update and bulletin; and join us after church next Sunday to meet Chris Iosso and commit to helping us move forward.

## **First and Franklin Presbyterian Church Committees**

### Mission Statements and Session Representatives

#### **Open Committees**

##### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

Oversee maintenance of buildings and grounds; approve expenditures over \$1500 related to B&G; develop and track budget related to B&G; develop, implement (with Session approval), and update five and ten year plans for campus. Work to identify, develop and recommend actions that maximize our physical assets to preserve and advance the mission and home of First & Franklin.

Scot Spencer            Paul Fowler

##### **FINANCE**

Oversee development of, present, and track annual budget; oversee management of investment funds; development and implement stewardship program.

Laurel Oldach            Scot Spencer            Paul Fowler

##### **MEMBERSHIP**

Develop and implement social programs for congregation; coordinate with Deacons regarding care for members and friends; develop and implement outreach programs to attract new members and to strengthen ties and better integrate with our Baltimore neighbors and community; cultivate a spirit of volunteerism seeking to staff committees and other church programs; develop and track budget related to membership.

Ruth Paradise            Sarah Lloyd

##### **MISSION AND EDUCATION**

Develop and implement the church's mission, social action, and educational programs; develop and track budget related to mission and education programs.

Sarah Lloyd            Ruth Paradise

##### **WORSHIP, MUSIC, & ARTS**

Develop and implement plans for worship with the pastor and other staff. Recruit and train volunteers to serve as ushers and liturgists; with Spire Series committee, develop and implement special music and arts programs; develop and track budget related to worship, music, and arts programs.

Allie Pyan

Beth Seeley

Marianne Shick

## **Committees with defined membership**

### **2020 - 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Working with representatives elected from the congregation each year, recommend candidates to present to the congregation for Session, Deacons, Pastor Nominating Committee, and any other board or committee requiring congregational approval. [Except for unexpected vacancies, most work will be done between march and June of each year.]

From the congregation	- Kenneth Davies	Sabrina Schumann	Vacancy to be filled
From the Session	- Laurel Oldach	Allie Pyan	

### **SESSION'S PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Develop and implement policies related to paid staff; with pastor, conduct reviews of employees (including pastor) at least annually; develop and recommend remuneration for employees; provide grievance process for employees.

Marianne Shick, Chair	Beth Seeley	Jim Schroll, ex officio as clerk
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### **2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

Your box of envelopes is ready for pick up! We have put them in Reid Chapel and if you are able, please pick them up during our Saturday Food Pantry hours (12-2pm). Drive up and one of our volunteers will be happy to pull your box and bring it to your car for you. If you are unable to come to pick them up, please contact Beth Seeley and we will arrange to get them to you. If you have never used envelopes in the past and would like a box, please contact Wanda in the church office.

### **2021 PER CAPITA - AN EXPLANATION: Why does it matter?**

Have you ever wondered why there is one envelope in the front of your box in a color different from the other? The envelope is marked "Per Capita."

But what does per capita mean to us and why are we asked to support it each year? We Presbyterians have a form of government comprised of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. In our Presbyterian church, congregations are united in accountability to a regional body called the presbytery. Several presbyteries are combined to make up a synod, and the various synods and presbyteries are joined in the highest body of the Presbyterian polity called the General Assembly. The cost to operate the Church governing structure comes from the Church's general membership, including from you, me, and all of us at First & Franklin. Hence, each member is called upon to pay his or her per capita as a way of sharing the literal cost to run the larger Presbyterian Church. And that is why we are asked every year to pay our respective per head cost.

The per capita cost assigned to our own church must be paid whether each of our members specifically identifies a payment for the cost of the per capita or not. In that regard, at the beginning of each year we ask our members to pay his or her own per capita share (including for all members within a household). That allows Session to focus on the mission of our church that includes all of the church's programming and outreach, together with our music and worship programs that we engage in throughout the year. This year our per capita cost is \$36.06 per member.

We ask that each of you prayerfully consider contributing to First & Franklin for the per capita cost assessed by the Presbytery to us, separate and apart from your pledge or annual giving. If we each paid the per capita cost separately, our budget would benefit dollar for dollar and would allow us to focus not as much on the cost of governance of the greater Church, but on fulfilling the mission of the Church.

We are grateful to each and every one of you for all that you do. We thank you for your continued generosity – both of the spirit and of the purse!

Thank you for supporting this vital gift that connects our church across our national denomination.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

- **The COSTA FAMILY** is excited to announce they are expecting a new baby, due August 6. Michael, Miriam, and Max hope to be able to share our new blessing with you all in person in the coming months.
- **LAUREL OLDACH** is excited to announce her recent engagement to Warren Weber.
- **SONCE REECE** is excited to announce her recent elopement. From Sonce, "We had an intimate ceremony in a woodsy location on 02.10.2021 (because of COVID, we eloped). Jeremy wanted to take my last name, so we're now Mr. & Mrs. Reese. Our wedding date is a special honor to his Mom who passed away in 2018."

## ARCH MADNESS CONTEST

The Baltimore Architecture Foundation is sponsoring an Arch-Madness contest for the most popular building in Baltimore and FIRST & FRANKLIN Presbyterian Church is one of the 64 in the contest! Get us to Round 2 by voting for our beautiful church in the 1870-1890 time period. We appear in the #3 question. The top 16 buildings from each "region" (determined by time periods: 1870s-90s; 1900s-1930s; 1940s-1970s; 1980s-2010s) now go head to head. The most popular building in each match-up will move on to the next round. Let's make sure F&F makes it to Round 2. Please ask everyone you know to VOTE!

Vote here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QP8QWC2>

Schedule:

3.01.21 – Round 1 (64) Voting Begins -- Voting ENDS Sunday, March 7, 2021!

3.11.21 – Round 2 (32) Voting Begins

3.18.21 – Sweet 16 Voting Begins

3.25.21 – Elite 8 Voting Begins  
4.01.21 – Final 4 Voting Begins  
4.08.21 – Championship Voting Begins  
4.12.21 – Winner Announcements

**To see the brackets:**

<https://aiabalt.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dd563f8c70061de1797896c0b&id=bbc530b5aa&e=b4ee2c761a>

## **FIVE FINGER PRAYER**

How many of you learned the Five Finger Prayer guide as a kid? Did you know you can submit Prayer Requests to us from our website 24/7? Click this link to go right to the page. These prayers will be added to our weekly prayer list. We welcome your submissions. [Contact Form/Prayer Requests - First & Franklin](#)

## **IN NEED OF PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?**

With our current Pastor vacancy, if you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (410) 728-5545 (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and we will direct your concern to an Associate Pastor for follow up.

## **LITURGISTS NEEDED!**

We will be transitioning back to the use of lay liturgists for Sunday Worship. Liturgists can serve virtually via Zoom as long as they have a stable internet connection.

**Open Dates:** April 11, 18, 25.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. Thank you for considering it.

## **THEOLOGY ON TAP | THEOLOGY ON TAP | MARCH 18, 2021 | 7:00PM – 9:00 PM**

Join us for a study through Peter Enn's book, *"How the Bible Actually Works"*.

"Controversial evangelical Bible scholar, popular blogger and podcast host of The Bible for Normal People, and author of *The Bible Tells Me So* and *The Sin of Certainty* explains that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom." If you are interested in joining this study, please email Sarah Lloyd ([saramcgawllloyd17@gmail.com](mailto:saramcgawllloyd17@gmail.com)) and let her know that you're interested. The book is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstores. If affording the book will be a hurdle, please let us know so we can arrange to help you.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89721303699?pwd=UDhCNURFODRUc3R0UGUySXZ4a2s2dz09>

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Passcode: 219616

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89721303699# US (Washington DC)

+16465588656,,89721303699# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89721303699>

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OFFERINGS**

As we all recognize real concerns for our friends who will experience hardships through this disruption in regular routines, so too, we need to be mindful that your weekly contributions are critical to helping us maintain the financial obligations of the church. Payroll, mortgages, electricity and the rest are needs we must continue to cover, and your continued support of your pledges will be even more important while we are tele-worshiping. In addition to accepting your pledges by mail to the church office, we have recently added a PayPal link to the top of our new website which will allow us to process donations with this link: **GIVE**. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **CUBA UPDATE**

In spite of the pandemic, our sister church in Cuba and we have been able to continue sharing news, greetings, and prayer requests through emails, Baltimore Presbytery connections, meetings with other U.S. partner churches of Taguasco Presbyterian Church, and two live Facebook Messenger visits. The town of Taguasco and the province of Santi Spiritus have had several cases of COVID. The government reacts quickly and church services and small gatherings are prohibited whenever there is a chance of any spread.

Taguasco Presbyterian Church has been shuttered and reopened for small gatherings several times this year. Their feeding and laundry programs for the seniors have also been closed, but our small band of faithful friends have found ways to continue their care for those who are in need. In the past, lunches and informational programs were offered at the church several days a week, with food delivery for those who could not travel. But now there is not enough food and rationing is in effect. People are lining up at the markets daily hoping to find food. Our sisters and brothers somehow gather enough food to cook and deliver hot lunches for the seniors. Walking to deliver so many lunches was overwhelming, so they have invested in a moped to transport the food. **Read more:** <https://www.firstfranklin.org/cuba-update/>

## **FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST & FRANKLIN**

Another 23 bags were handed out last week. We want to make sure people understand that they do not have to give large amounts. Buying an extra box of pasta or donating \$10 if that is what works for you is impactful and welcome.

**If you have the resources to do so, please consider donating non-perishables (see list below) or financial contributions. Please also consider joining us on Saturdays from about 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

We continue to staff a food pantry in Reid Chapel every Saturday from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. There is a growing flow of neighbors with whom we are building relationships. We have built connections with residents at Westminster House for whom we drop off additional bags of food for those who cannot make the walk to Reid Chapel.

In each grocery bag we pack food for breakfast, jelly and peanut butter (a good source of protein) for lunch, the makings for a balanced dinner such as beans and rice, pasta and sauce, canned meat, soup, vegetables, and fruit, and a paper goods. We like to add a little fun food, such as popcorn or cookies, for everyone enjoys a treat.

Contributions of shelf stable foods can be brought to Reid Chapel every Saturday between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. If shopping is difficult for you, monetary donations earmarked food pantry may be sent to the church and we will shop for you.

**We are currently low on:** canned meats, pasta, soup, powdered milk, rice, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and paper towels

### **Here is the list of foods we try to provide:**

Apple sauce, canned fruit and dried fruit  
Rice and beans  
Peanut butter and jelly  
Cereal or oatmeal and canned or powdered milk  
Tuna fish and other canned meats  
Spaghetti or pasta and tomato sauce  
Soup, Canned vegetables  
Popcorn and cookies  
Paper towels, Toilet paper

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at [ssschuma@gmail.com](mailto:ssschuma@gmail.com) or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.

Thank you,  
The Peacemaking Committee

## **THE SPIRE SERIES**

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT -- The Spire Series Committee is pleased to share the YouTube link to the 2020 Virtual Candlelight Christmas Concert. This final version includes details that were unavailable during our initial broadcast, including subtitles, enhanced imagery and closing credits.

We hope that having access to the beautiful music and scenery of the Christmas season at First & Franklin will brighten your days ahead. Please share this link with friends & family, too.

<https://youtu.be/nwbooAwK9Ug>

## **MORNING PRAYER | 7:00am**

Please join us online: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Zoom Event Click: [MORNING PRAYER](#)

## **DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?**

Or did you want to re-visit a particular sermon from our congregational life?

Please visit: [Sermons](#)

**Prayers from 2/28/2021**

Prayers for John and Suzanne Jewell as John faces his 5th bout with cancer. [Jim]

For the people of Myanmar. [John]

Prayers of joy for Mike and Miriam Costa who are expecting a baby in August.

Prayers for my cousin who is waiting for test results. [Mike]

Prayers for Lillian Greenberg who is seriously ill in NJ and her caregiver/daughter, Janet. [Sandra]

Continue to offer prayers for the people of Texas who were impacted by the winter storm and icy temps. [Sonce]

Thanksgiving for Jason and our choir members who continue to bring us beautiful joy each week.

Prayers for healing and understanding among the different factions in our country. [Betty]

Prayers of thanks and continued strength for all who work in healthcare and emergency response. [Laurel]

Grateful for the unexpected and wonderful ways inspiration appears in our lives every day, in every way. [Audrey]

Prayers for our church community as we work together to strengthen our commitment to the work we do and the work we will do.

For all in our community who are suffering from loneliness. Who do you sit near in church – and are they joining us each week? If not, let's reach out with a phone call.

Prayers to the Mt. Vernon community as we approach the 1 year anniversary of the start of the pandemic. And for the folks in our Food Pantry who helped give away 18 bags of groceries this week to those in need. [Randy]

Remember with joy our brothers & sisters in Cuba. [Betty]

Grateful for a pertinent, powerful and inspiring sermon, Rev. LaPenta!

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]

**Prayers from 2/21/2021**

Prayers of joy for Laurel Oldach's engagement to Warren Weber.

Prayers for Jerry who is desperate and lost. [Mike]

Prayers for the family of Sacha Taylor who lost her life. [Beth]

Prayers for our brothers & sisters in Cuba. [Betty]

Prayers for Becca's brother in Texas who has Covid.

Prayers for our families in the Dakotas as they deal with Covid. [Marla]

Prayers for my friend Waltyn who is facing health challenges. [JYoung]

Ongoing prayers for Jamie Raskin as they mourn their son, Tommy. [John]

Prayers for the folks in Texas who have been impacted by the storm, icy weather and frigid temps. [Sonce]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 23 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

For all in our church community who are unable to join us each week – may we all reach out to those we do not see each week. [Beth]

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]