

FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS BEATITUDES

UPDATING MATTHEW 5: 1-12

Blessed are those who have no “home for the holidays,”

For they will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Blessed are those in prison solitary without visitors

For Jesus will ask them to come up to the head table.

Blessed are those who will drink their way through Christmas

For their thirst for the eternal will be quenched.

Blessed are those without jobs or funds to buy gifts

For they will find the hidden treasure buried in the field.

Blessed are the atheists being shelled in foxholes

For they will find the peace that passes understanding.

Blessed are the children whose parents have died

For God will wipe the tears from their eyes and hold them close.

Blessed are those stuck in refugee camps

For they will find welcome in a promised land without violence.

Blessed are those who have outlived all their companions

For they will sense around them the great cloud of witnesses.

Blessed are the prophets who cannot forget the suffering

For they will see the Lamb who was slain lifted up in the power of love.

Blessed are those who never think of children

For they may see God’s face in the smile of a baby nestled on the pavement.

This Christmastime, some of us will have seen God’s hand in the votes of millions for truth and justice, to preserve democracy, and we may root for the valiant Ukrainians to preserve their country. Still, we know that many wars are being lost, many are losing their livelihoods and homes and rights, in the Holy Land and other holy lands. The Education Committee recommends the book, *Holy Disruption*, which urges hope in a bigger future than a world of dead ends. Unusually, it uses the Gospel of Mark in Advent, as Mark has no birth narrative, nor the cosmic beginning of the Word with God as in the Gospel of John.

My updated beatitudes speak to those who long for good disruption, a gospel reversal of their circumstances. To me, for our church, we need more good construction. But in our worlds, as we clink holiday glasses with friends, may we pray for the scrooges of high finance that God may bless them with consciences that can be awakened. And for us, in whatever gift-buying we do, may it be with discernment about what the other needs to receive, and what we need to give.

Merry Advent, Rev. Chris Iosso, Interim Minister.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Dec 4 | Hope for the Gentiles.

Romans 15: 4-13 | Matthew 3: 1-12.

Dec 11 | Holy Disruption.

Isaiah 32: 1-8 | Luke 1: 46b-55.

Dec 18 | Home for the Holidays.

Mark 6: 1-6 | Luke 2: 22-38.

**Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Lessons
and Carols**

Dec 25 | Our Son Sign.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 | Luke 2: 1-20.

December Calendar

12/2 | Fri | BSA Chamber Chorus & Orchestra | 5:00pm
12/4 | Sun | Hanging of the Greens | 11:45am
12/4 | Sun | Alternative Christmas Market | 11:45am
12/4 | Sun | Canon & Culture - Rescheduled!
12/6 | Tue | Session Meeting | 6:30pm
12/6 | Tue | Peacemaking Committee | 7:00pm
12/9 | Fri | Al-Anon | 12:00pm
12/10 | Sat | Choir Rehearsal | 10:00am
12/11 | Sun | Canon & Culture | 11:45am
12/11 | Sun | Candlelight Choral Concert | 4:00pm
12/14 | Sun | Membership Committee | 5:30pm
12/14 | Wed | Deacons Meeting | 7:00pm
12/15 | Thu | Building and Grounds Committee | 5:30pm
12/19 | Mon | Worship, Music, and Arts Committee | 5:30pm
12/20 | Tue | Session Meeting | 6:30pm
12/20 | Tue | Education Committee | 7:00pm
12/21 | Wed | Night Heart | 7:30pm
12/24 | Sat | Christmas Eve Worship Service | 7:00pm
12/25 | Sun | No Adult Education or Multi-age Sunday School
12/25 | Sun | Christmas Day Worship Service | 10:30am
12/26 | Mon | Church Office Closed

Weekly:

Handbell Rehearsal (Thursdays, 6:00pm)
Choir Rehearsal (Thursdays, 7:00pm)
Narcotics Anonymous (Saturdays, 10:30am)
Food Pantry (Saturdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm)

In Case You Missed It



The Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association (MVBA) held its first in-person meeting in more than two years at First & Franklin on November 15th. Refreshments were provided by David and Judy Dadds. A presentation by the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Maryland Department of Transportation filled their agenda. The MVBA also held their elections.

A Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 20th as a time to enjoy our community, hear about new developments, and talk about our stewardship for the future. Members feasted on roast and fried chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans with soy-maple sauce, stove-top stuffing and even biryani! Thank you to Becca Hollaway and the rest of the Membership Committee for arranging this annual event.



Six members and friends of the church gathered on Saturday morning, November 12, to learn how to serve effectively as liturgists in our worship services. Rev. Rhonda Cooper led the group through conversations about the ministry of reading Scripture, leading prayers, supporting the preacher, and representing the congregation on the chancel and in the pulpit. These six new liturgists will join an existing cohort of a dozen or more who have experienced this wonderful training opportunity.

On November 23rd, First & Franklin hosted a candlelight vigil to honor the five lives lost and others affected by the Colorado Springs massacre. Passionate speeches were made by members of The Pride Center of Maryland and other community organizations and prayers were led by Rev. Tim Williams from Light Street Presbyterian Church. We thank our community for their support.



Readings for Advent 2022

Dec 1: Mark 1: 1-28

Dec 2: Mark 1:29-45

Dec 3: Mark 2:1-28

Dec 4: Mark 3:1-35

Dec 5: Mark 4:1-34

Dec 6: Mark 4:35-5:20

Dec 7: Mark 5:21-43

Dec 8: Mark 6:1-29

Dec 9: Mark 6:30-56

Dec 10: Mark 7:1-23

Dec 11: Mark 7:24-8:10

Dec 12: Mark 8:11-9:1

Dec 13: Mark 9:2-29

Dec 14: Mark 9:30-50

Dec 15: Mark 10:1-31

Dec 16: Mark 10:32-52

Dec 17: Mark 11:1-33

Dec 18: Mark 12:1-27

Dec 19: Mark 12:28-44

Dec 20: Mark 13:1-37

Dec 21: Mark 14:1-25

Dec 22: Mark 14:26-14:52

Dec 23: Mark 14:53-15:20

Dec 24: Mark 15:21-16:8

Dec 25: Matthew 1:1-2:23,
4:12-17 OR John 1:1-14

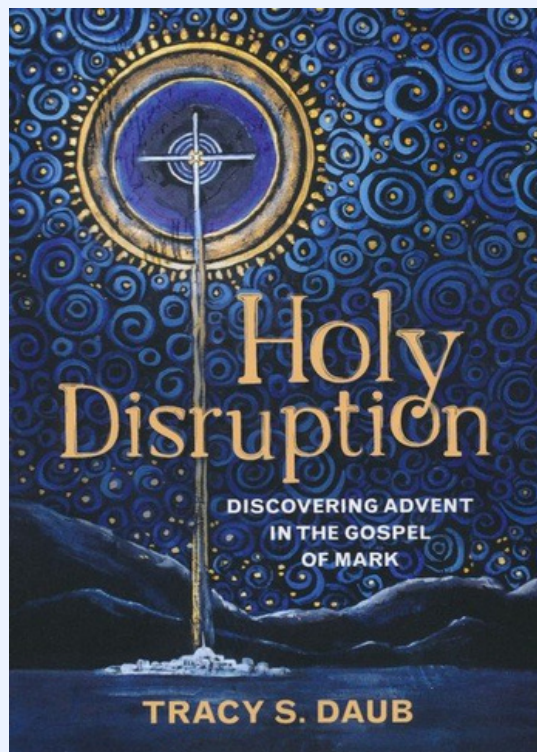
Adult Education

Led by Steve Hollaway and Kris Stinson

On Sunday, November 27th, Adult Education began our Advent series, which we hope will bring us together as a congregation as we move through the season. We will be doing a church-wide study of the book *Holy Disruption* by Tracy S. Daub. This book, along with the Gospel of Mark, will be guiding the music and liturgy at Sunday Worship for a deeper level of understanding.

What if you can't come to Adult Education on Sunday mornings? No problem! You can read along at home and follow the suggested scripture readings listed to the left.

Need the book? We've got you covered! Copies can be purchased at the church office. A \$10 donation is appreciated, but not required.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Where's the baby? The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story. So where's the Advent message? It's in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond. The Incarnation (God coming to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die) is what we celebrate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration-worthy it is! *Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world. (*Description from Christianbook.com.*)

Multi-Age Sunday School

Our Multi-Age Class has been doing and learning about lessons found in the Book of Exodus with our fourth grade students. Our kindergarten student is learning about the many miracles Jesus performed and how loving his Spirit was when he walked the earth. Additionally, the senior students are learning some ancient geography as they followed Moses and his tribe as they fled Pharaoh. We have made a 'No Whining Weekly Calendar' that signals gratitude, made friendship bracelets and the older students memorized the Lord's Prayer.

Our youngest learner is lovely and as enthusiastic as her classmates. Like the others, she is painting and making all kinds of biblically oriented figures with Model Magic. Art is a big part of our study. Soon we'll begin preparation for a short Christmas presentation. We're hoping to make it a multigenerational short play, so I'm calling for volunteers to join us on December 18, front and center. After Christmas the older students will begin with Jesus' birth through Easter and the youngest student will study the Book of Genesis.

The Multi-Age Sunday School class is led by First & Franklin's Director of Christian Arts & Education Deborah McCrimmon, and takes place on Sundays at 9:00am on the second floor of Backus House.



REMINDER - NO CLASS ON 12/25!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

December 4th

Christmas greens, hot cider, yummy treats, and a chance to buy a Christmas gift that gives twice. Come learn about 4 of our church's social justice projects: the Food Pantry, Cuba Partnership, South Dakota Learning Camps, or Guns 2 Gardens; make a \$5 donation to the project; receive a lovely card designed by our late, beloved Dorothy Janzen plus an insert explaining how the donation will share God's love with those in need. Besides shifting your Christmas attention away from consumerism, your contribution will be a gift to those in need as well as a gift to someone you personally care for. Come to coffee hour December 4 for the second Alternative Christmas Market or mail your order to the office by December 12.



We will deck the halls on Sunday, December 4th after worship with our greenery and wreaths to dress the Sanctuary for the holiday season. Please consider joining in and hanging at least one wreath or help with the swags. If we have 10-12 people all pitching in the process will go quickly. The more the merrier!

PRESBYTERIAN CANON & CULTURE

December 11th & January 15th



This series will be led by the interim minister Chris Iosso. It can serve as a “new members” class, but will go “beyond belief,” to matters of ethos and character. It will be after church, over lunch. E-mail Chris Iosso if you are interested in attending. *Please note, the December 4th class has been rescheduled to January 15th!*

NIGHT HEART

ORGAN MUSIC | MEDITATION | CONVERSATION

Third Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Oct 19th ~ Nov 16th ~ Dec 21st ~ Jan 18th

Come experience a beautiful space and reflective organ music, followed by refreshments and time for connecting with neighbors and friends. The space for reverie is the Gothic sanctuary of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, partly lit by candles. Organist Jason Kissel will play for approximately 25 minutes with little speaking. This is not a worship service, but evening time for exploring inner worlds.



Candlelight Choral Concert Sunday, December 11th, 4pm

Join the First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir, readers and guest artists for this annual musical celebration of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The choir will sing John Rutter's three-movement Gloria, accompanied by US Armed Forces brass players. Also featured will be Christian Humcke's Evening Quiescence for choir and harp, written for the First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir during the composer's time in our choir. The sanctuary will be bathed in the warmth of candlelight and beautiful music, and a festive reception follows in Reid Chapel. A freewill offering will be accepted.

Food Pantry Seeking Donations Saturdays | 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

As you shop for the holiday, consider adding a few of these items to your grocery cart for the food pantry: Instant mashed potatoes, cornbread mix, honey, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, spiced peaches, sugar or flour for baking, canned pumpkin, hot chocolate, tea, canned turkey or ham. You may drop them off on Sundays, weekdays with George, or Saturdays when the pantry is open. Thank you for your support!

F&F DECEMBER HISTORICAL TIMELINE

DATE	HISTORICAL EVENT
12/05/1763	First Church Dedicated - Log cabin at Fayette and Gay Street.
12/20/1776	Patrick Allison named chaplain to Continental Congress.
12/01/1811	National Organ Day - First organ obtained over strong objections from James McCulloh. Current organ acquired in 1961.
12/18/1881	Patrick Allison House Complete - Built as a manse for the church. Total cost \$16,000. Designed by Baltimore architect Charles L. Carson who designed other notable religious buildings in Baltimore as well as the first Enoch Pratt Free Library in 1881.

Pottery by Laura Oldham

Laura Oldham has been a member at F&F for 21 years. Owner of Turning True Studios, Laura specializes in functional, handmade ceramic pottery that she designs with hand painted Zentangle-inspired patterns. We welcome you to view her offerings for the holiday season at Bit's and Bob's Holiday Market at Cross Keys and the Maker's Market at Green Spring Station. Details below!

Bits And Bobs Holiday Market | Saturday, December 3rd | 10am-2pm
5100 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21210

Makers Market at Green Spring Station | Saturday, December 10th | 10am-4pm
10751 Falls Rd, Timonium, MD 21093



Nusrat David is offering clothing alteration services for members of First & Franklin! Talk to her on Sundays for more information.



Natural Holiday Sale
SAT. DEC 3
10AM-3PM
FREE

- locally crafted gifts
- live music
- critter crafts for children
- no registration required

Questions: Audrey Suhr | 410- 796-4792

The Howard County Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant
10520 Old Frederick Road
Woodstock, MD 21163
www.howardnature.org



Find the perfect gifts! The Howard County Conservancy (Woodbine) is hosting a free Natural Holiday Sale the first Saturday of December. Great decorations and art inspired by nature. Try your hand at “critter-building” from cones, seed pods and twigs. Enjoy harp music in the morning, and my husband Rol on the keyboard from noon to 3pm. Beautiful location for a meadow- or woodland-hike before and after you browse!

Questions:

Call Audrey Suhr 410- 796-4792



BIRTHDAYS

December



ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Diane Newman | 21 - Randy Veale |
| 1 - Steve Noffsinger | 23 - Mike Johnson |
| 2 - Peggy Drake | 28 - Beth Seeley |
| 5 - Kylie Pucino Amin | 31 - Evan Smith |
| 12 - Allie Pyan | 31 - Daveen Rim |
| 13 - Joseph Jaffa | 31 - Jeremy Tibbels |
| 20 - Bob Armenti | |

- 1 - Zhenya Gnezdilova and William Fleming
 16 - Jim Peters and Rod Wright
 18 - Geoffrey Genth and Rachel Eisler
 28 - Onyeka and Obiora Anaedozie

***FOLLOW, LIKE & SHARE OUR PAGES ON
 INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK!!***



SHARE GOOD NEWS & IDEAS!

We would love to receive and share your news in the upcoming Newsletters. What would you like to see? Do you have milestone events to share – graduations, weddings, family updates? Photos and reflections on past events at First & Franklin? Please send them to Office Administrator Anna Pollitt at apollitt@firstfranklin.org or call the church office at 410-728-5545.

Please submit all entries for the January 2023 Newsletter by December 25rd, 2022.



DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE OR SPECIFY YOUR PREFERRED CONTACT METHOD?

Please call or email the church office if your contact information or address has changed. We would also love for you to tell us your preferred method of outreach. Do you prefer email or mailed letter? Would you like a call or an email? Let us know!