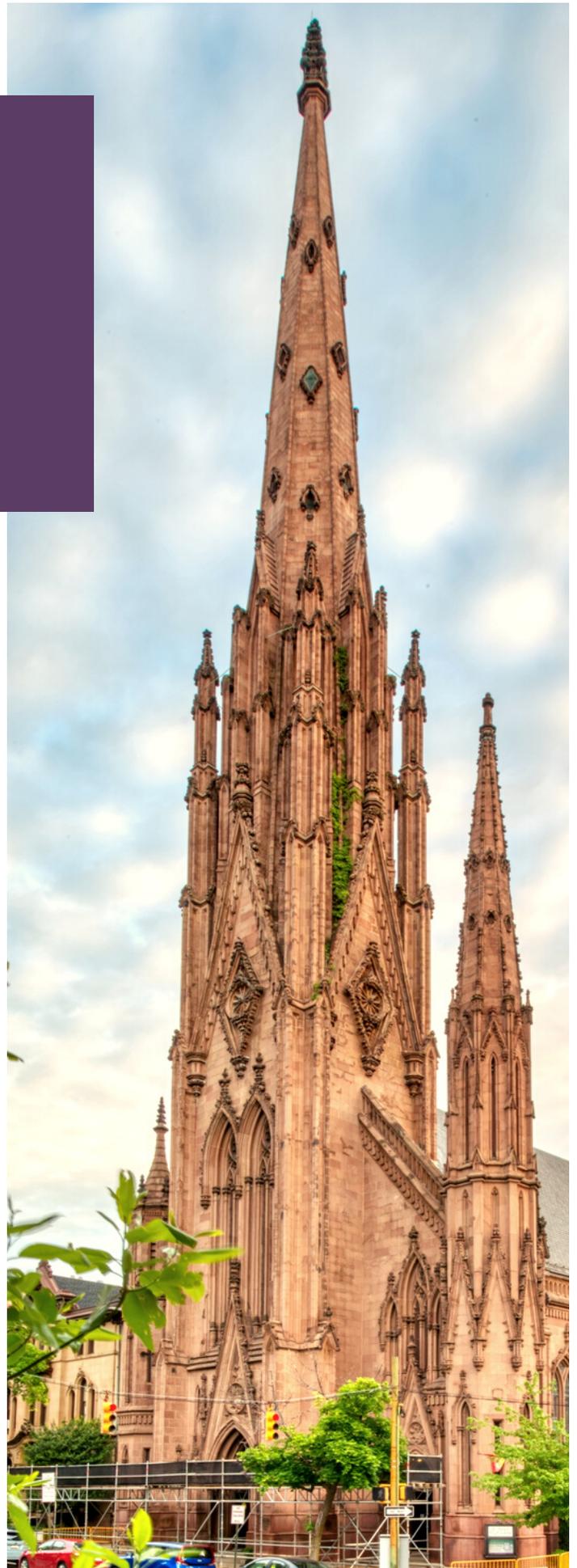


FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

# FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# Help Needed For Coffee Hour

Mike Johnson

*Deacon and Membership Committee*

January's Newsletter announced a more equitable way of providing coffee hour refreshments. We have divided up our community into 4 teams assigned a calendar quarter. Each household in a team will be providing snacks on the Sunday that they choose in their assigned quarter. For this quarter, members with the last name F-K are encouraged to sign up by emailing Mike Johnson at [mikejohnson9747@gmail.com](mailto:mikejohnson9747@gmail.com). We are still seeking volunteers to provide refreshments on Sundays from February 2nd through March 19th. Many Sundays, we have a cake or pie donated, so the host usually has to bring only \$10 worth of crackers/cheese/fruit/pretzels, or something sugar/dairy/gluten-free for those with dietary restrictions. Any questions? Contact Mike Johnson at . Thank you for your support!



## Lenten Meditative Services Begin March 1st

John McLucas

*Chair of Worship, Music, and Arts*

During the season of Lent, First & Franklin is offering weekly meditative services which will include readings, music, and silence. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00pm from March 1st through March 29th to participate in this reflective time.

Additionally, we would like to provide worshipers with a printed page or two of brief texts to prompt their meditations. We invite all members and friends to contribute a few sentences to this resource - perhaps a short poem, a verse of Scripture, or a personal insight or experience which speaks to the spirit of Lent. We request a 100-word limit. Please send your readings to John McLucas at [JCMcL1532@aol.com](mailto:JCMcL1532@aol.com).

# Supporting the Presbytery

Alex Mendelsohn

*Chair of Finance*

As we start 2023, First & Franklin is preparing to submit the annual Per Capita fee to the Presbytery of Baltimore. This fee is split between the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly, allowing them to provide valuable resources and support for our various church needs. For instance, the Presbytery provides our Pastor Nominating Committee with information and administrative assistance that helps immensely with the Pastor search process. Each year, First & Franklin pays the \$40 Per Capita fee on behalf of each church member. For this reason, we encourage those who are able to make a designated Per Capita contribution of \$40 to help cover the cost of this annual fee. If you feel called to support First & Franklin and the Presbytery of Baltimore in this way, please send your contribution in an envelope labeled with your name and "Per Capita." These envelopes can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plates on Sunday morning. For more information about Per Capita giving, visit <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/per-capita/>.

# Recommitting to the Purple Ribbon Project

Jason Kissel, *Minister of Music*  
Anna Pollitt, *Office Administrator*

Each Sunday at First & Franklin, we speak the names of the precious lives lost to gun violence in Baltimore City, and we hang a purple ribbon outside the church in their memory. In 2022, there were 334 reported homicides in our city. As of January 27, 2023, there have been 23 reported homicides. At the January 29th worship service, we reaffirmed our commitment to non-violence and peace-making as a way of life, and prayed for all those affected by violence - victims, family members, and perpetrators alike. We ask that you hold these names in your heart, and pray that we may soon see justice for our neighbors, our city, and our world.

As part of our recommitment to the Purple Ribbon Ministry, First & Franklin is currently featuring oil paintings by Baltimore artist William Brown in Reid Chapel. These portraits were originally installed in the sanctuary on March 24, 2019, for a concert sung by the First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir in response to the ongoing violence in Baltimore City. Each painting features a victim whose life was ended by gunfire, and serves as a somber reminder of the terrible toll of gun violence in our city. We encourage all to take stock of this haunting display while it is still featured in Reid Chapel.



# A Word From Our Sister Church

Betty Schroll  
*Chair of Peacemaking*

As part of the Presbytery to Presbytery Partnership established in 2015, member churches of the Presbytery of Baltimore developed a team of representatives from each congregation to partner with congregations in El Centro Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cuba. First & Franklin is proud to partner with the Taguasco Presbyterian Church, and continues to exchange messages with the congregation every few weeks.

In a recent message from minister Fernando Lopez, we learned about some exciting developments at our sister church. Foremost, the Taguasco Presbyterian Church celebrated its 95th anniversary on January 29. The congregation is alive and well, announcing that over 70 children attended their Epiphany celebration earlier in January. Ongoing work to update the church building has included painting, roof repairs, fixing drains, and installing a terrace, and the church is making strides towards completing a water project. Furthermore, Roxana (the pastor's wife) is anticipating a baby, due March 13th. We encourage the First & Franklin congregation to continue to uplift the people of Taguasco Presbyterian Church in prayer.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Sonce Reese
- 7 - Gail Rice
- 10 - David Rice
- 14 - Davis Bradley
- 18 - Bonnie Thomson
- 19 - Jan Trammel-Savin
- 20 - Miriam Costa
- 20 - David Harris
- 21 - Zhenya Gnezdilova
- 22 - Muddassar Iqbal
- 23 - John Wolford
- 25 - Becca Hollaway

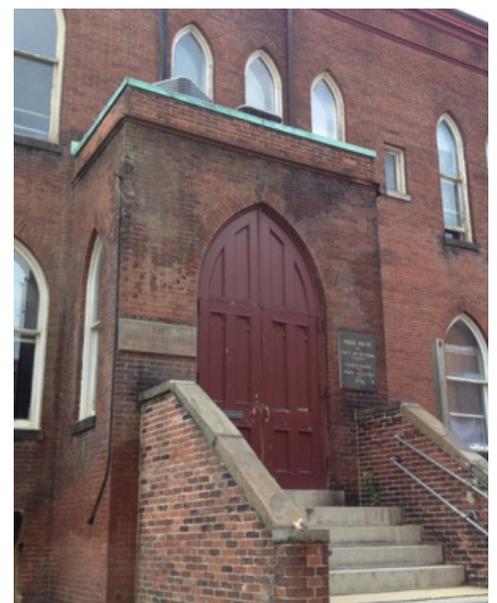
## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Haswell and Madge Franklin
- 5 - Betty and Jim Schroll
- 9 - Lou and Mara Dudrow
- 10 - Sonce and Jeremy Reese

# Apprentice Craftsmen At Work In Hodge House

David Pierson  
*Chair of Building and Grounds*

In January, we welcomed the Accomplished Arts Apprenticeship program onto campus to begin a restoration project in Hodge House. This program aims to increase equity and inclusion in the arts, creative, and preservation trades, with specific focus on people from marginalized communities in Baltimore. Apprentices are paid a living wage while gaining access to meaningful, creative careers. Led by master craftsman David Gibney, this cohort of students will provide a much-needed restoration to the historic windows in Hodge House.





January 8th, 2023 - The Schenk family celebrates the baptism of Holden Mirski Schenk.

## Sunday School Attends A Baptism

Deborah McCrimmon  
Director of Christian Arts & Education

Last month, two of the Multi-age Class students attended the church service with me. They did a beautiful job sitting and listening attentively. They had the opportunity to see the baptism of Holden Schenk and witness a new member Malinda Wu join the congregation. The youngsters are learning their Bible stories, realizing what a huge part Jesus' teaching plays in our daily lives. They now know more about how church service works. I truly enjoy working with my little group as we all learn more and more about the Word of God and the work of His son during his time on earth. We welcome new members to our class, so we ask you to scout for new young people to join us each Sunday morning at 9:15am.

## Looking Back On Februaries Past

Dave Pierson  
Chair of Building and Grounds

02/09/1777

John Adams attends a sermon by First & Franklin's founding minister Patrick Allison, remarking on his powerful preaching.

02/15/1777

William Smith is elected as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. He is also elected to the first United States Congress, and becomes the first Auditor of the United States Treasury.

02/21/1777

Founding Father John Adams dines in Baltimore with First Presbyterian founders Samuel & Robert Purviance.

02/10/1802

James Inglis is elected as the second pastor of First & Franklin. He was a law partner of Alexander Hamilton when Hamilton fought for the Slave Trade Act of 1800, which outlawed international slave trade.

02/12/1827

George Brown held a meeting at his home advocating for the formation of the B&O railroad to make Baltimore competitive with other eastern seaboard ports.

02/07/1987

The AIDS Interfaith Network participated in opening The Don Miller House, an early hospice for persons with AIDS in Baltimore.



January 8th, 2023 - New Member Malinda Wu joins the congregation.

## Food Pantry Report

Randy Veale  
Deacon and Food Pantry Volunteer

In January 2023, the Food Pantry distributed a total of 220 bags of groceries to persons in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood. 110 bags were groceries, and 100 were produce. The Food Pantry has been serving our area since June of 2020. They have a large team of dedicated volunteers and are led by member Corena Bridges. We thank them for their hard work!

## Ash Wednesday

John McLucas  
Chair of Worship, Music, and Arts

On February 22nd, 2023, there will be a reflective service of worship in the sanctuary at 6:00pm with special music and imposition of ashes. John McLucas and Kris Stinson will lead the service, and Minister of Music & Arts/Organist Jason Kissel will conduct a quartet from the Sanctuary Choir.

*The Spire Series presents*  
**THE KEN & BRAD  
KOLODNER QUARTET**

Sunday, March 19, 2023 | 2:30 p.m.

FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
210 West Madison Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201



\$20 Adult | \$10 Student  
Tickets: [bit.ly/SpireSeries](https://bit.ly/SpireSeries)  
[information@firstfranklin.org](mailto:information@firstfranklin.org)  
410.728.5545



February 5th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Friedberg Hall in Peabody Institute

# ALL BRAHMS

A Food Bank Benefit Concert

Program:

**Academic Festival Overture, Op.80**  
**Symphony No.4 in E minor, Op.98**

The Musicians of Peabody Institute  
Conducted by Jee Won Yang

Free Admission.

We would like to share our heart with you through music in this new year. If you would like to bring non-perishable food items to support our Baltimore community. All donations will be given to the Maryland Food Bank.



# February 2023 Calendar

- 2/5 | Sun | Guest Preacher: Dottie LaPenta | 10:30am
- 2/5 | Sun | Annual Congregational Meeting | 11:30am
- 2/7 | Sun | Egenton-Roberts Board Meeting | 7:00pm
- 2/8 | Wed | Membership Committee | 7:00pm
- 2/12 | Sun | Guest Preacher: Rev. Rhonda Cooper | 10:30am
- 2/15 | Wed | Super Bowl Party | 6:30pm
- 2/16 | Thu | Building and Grounds Committee | 7:00pm
- 2/19 | Sun | Guest Preacher: Rev. Stephen Hollaway | 10:30am
- 2/19 | Sun | No Sunday School
- 2/20 | Mon | Worship, Music, and Arts Committee | 6:30pm
- 2/21 | Tue | Education Committee | 7:00pm
- 2/22 | Wed | Ash Wednesday Service | 6:00pm
- 2/26 | Sun | Guest Preacher: Rev. Kate Foster | 10:30am
- 2/28 | Tue | Session Meeting | 6:30pm

*This calendar is current as of 02/01/23.*



## Upcoming Spire Series Events

- 3/19 | Sun | The Ken & Brad Kolodner Quartet | 2:30pm
- 4/21 | Fri | Jessica Tong & Michael Sheppard | 7:30 pm
- 5/25 | Thu | Baltimore School For the Arts | 7:00 pm
- 6/4 | Sun | Prelude to Pride with Sara Davis Buechner | 3:00 pm

*Tickets on sale at [www.firstfranklin.org/the-arts/the-spire-series](http://www.firstfranklin.org/the-arts/the-spire-series)*



## Acknowledgements

The First & Franklin Presbyterian Newsletter is designed, edited, and formatted by Church Office Administrator Anna Pollitt. Special thanks to this month's contributors: Jason Kissel, Mike Johnson, Deborah McCrimmon, John McLucas, Alex Mendelsohn, Dave Pierson, Betty Schroll, Randy Veale, and Jee Won Yang. If you have announcements, news, photos, or more that you would like to share in our March 2023 newsletter, please contact Anna Pollitt at [apollitt@firstfranklin.org](mailto:apollitt@firstfranklin.org) or call the church office at 410-728-5545 by February 22nd, 2023.

