

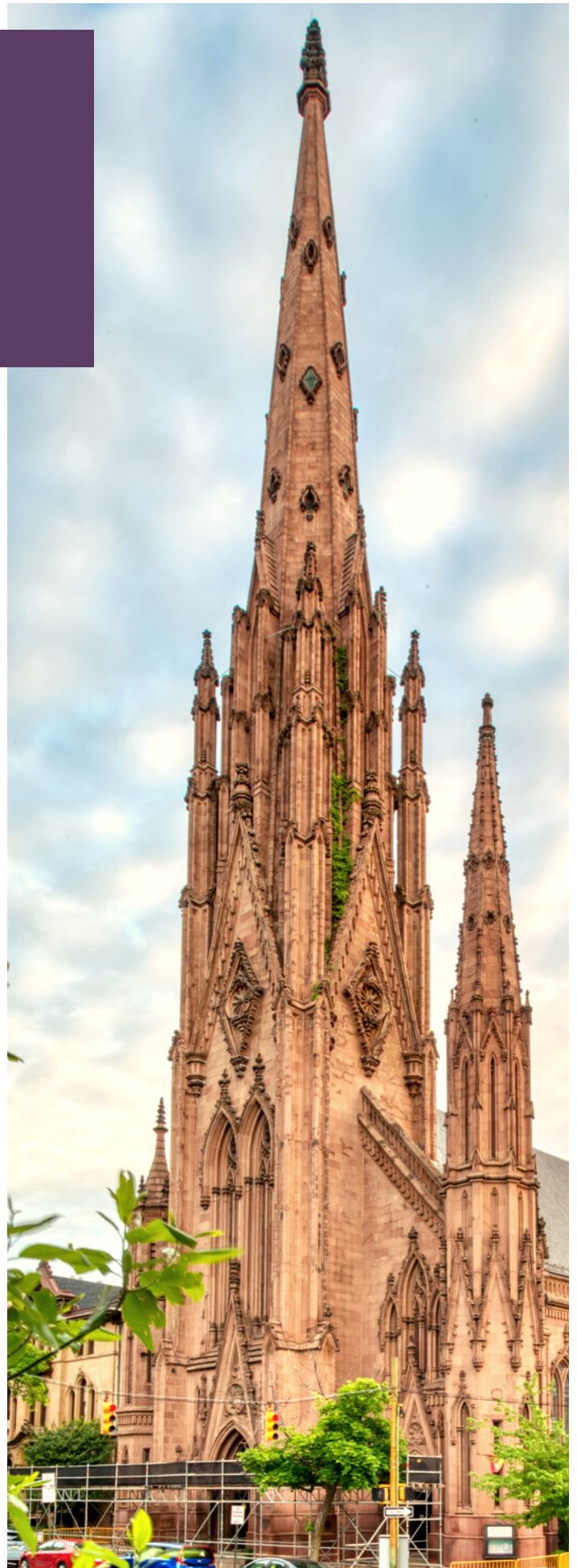
JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

FIRST & FRANKLIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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A WORD FROM REV. STEVE NOFEL

Oh the Lord is good to me,
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun and the rain and the apple seed.
The Lord is good to me!
Amen – Amen – Amen – Amen!

All this week as I have thought about my short time serving First & Franklin PC, the words of Disney's Johnny Appleseed keeps going through my head. When our sons were growing up this was our favorite table grace, and we still sing it on special occasions and when we are together with special friends.

This indeed is a special time in the life of F&F and you are special friends.

I consider myself blest to be a part of this incredible community of faith. The Lord was good to me bringing me here. Because of the dedication of the session, Jason, other staff, and the good, good members, I have truly been given all I need to be your bridge pastor.

I also sing this song with this congregation in mind for 2024 and "to infinity and beyond." The Lord has been good to us for decades and decades. The Lord has given us good ministers and staff. The Lord has given us good people upon whose shoulders we stand. The Lord has given us all the resources we need not just to survive but to thrive.

The Lord has given us a new pastor, a new beginning for our church. I am so excited for First & Franklin that I keep finding myself singing "O the Lord is good to me..." as I think about the future God has for us.

I want to thank all of you for all you do in the name of the Lord. With fear that I might forget someone, I do want to name our session: Paul Fowler, Becca Hollaway, Alex Mendelsohn, John McLucas, Dave Pierson, Allie Pyan, Marianne Shick, and Kris Stinson. I also want to thank staff members Jason Kissel, Deborah McCrimmon, George Meagher, and Anna Pollitt.

I will be around. The presbytery has given me permission to moderate session, congregational meetings and lead worship one Sunday in February and March.



The Lord is good to me!
The Lord is good to us!
Amen – Amen – Amen – Amen!

Pastor Steve Nofel
Forever Friend of F&F

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

01/01 Mon | Office Closed - New Years Day
01/02 Tue 7:00pm-8:30pm | Peacemaking Committee Meeting
01/05 Fri 12:00pm-1:00pm | Al-Anon (Backus House)
01/06 Sat 10:30am-1:30pm | 12-Step NA Meeting (Reid Chapel)
01/06 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus)
01/07 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Adult Education Special Speaker: Josh Cole
01/07 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Sunday School
01/07 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rev. Stephen Hollaway
01/11 Thu 7:00pm-9:00pm | Choir Rehearsal (Reid)
01/12 Fri 12:00pm-1:00pm | Al-Anon (Backus House)
01/13 Sat 10:30am-1:30pm | 12-Step NA Meeting (Reid Chapel)
01/13 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus)
01/13 Sat 2:00pm-3:00pm | Pastor Candidate Meet and Greet (Reid)
01/14 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Adult Education
01/14 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Sunday School
01/14 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Pastor Candidate
01/14 Sun 11:30am-12:00pm | Special Congregational Meeting
01/14 Sun 12:00pm-1:00pm | Potluck Dinner
01/15 Mon 5:30pm-7:30pm | Worship, Music, and Arts Committee Meeting
01/17 Wed 5:30pm-6:30pm | Finance Committee Meeting
01/18 Thu 6:30pm-8:30pm | Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
01/18 Thu 7:00pm-9:00pm | Choir Rehearsal (Reid)
01/19 Fri 12:00pm-1:00pm | Al-Anon (Backus House)
01/20 Sat 10:30am-1:30pm | 12-Step NA Meeting (Reid Chapel)
01/20 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus)
01/21 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Adult Education
01/21 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Sunday School
01/21 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rhonda Cooper
01/25 Thu 7:00pm-9:00pm | Choir Rehearsal (Reid)
01/26 Fri 12:00pm-1:00pm | Al-Anon (Backus House)
01/27 Sat 10:30am-1:30pm | 12-Step NA Meeting (Reid Chapel)
01/28 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Adult Education
01/28 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Sunday School
01/28 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Sunday Worship

PASTOR CANDIDATE VISITING WEEKEND

Our pastor candidate will be visiting during the weekend of January 13. We invite you to join us to meet our candidate at two events. On Saturday, Jan.13 at 2pm in Reid Chapel, we will have a meet and greet and will be doing a TV show style interview with the candidate. Please send questions you have for the candidate to churchlife@firstfranklin.org. On Sunday, Jan.14, the candidate will lead us in worship, followed by a congregational meeting. We will then enjoy a potluck lunch in Reid Chapel. Please save these dates and plan to attend both of these important events.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, directly following the worship, there will be a special meeting of the Congregation of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church to examine and vote whether to call the candidate recommended by the Pastor Nominating Committee as installed pastor of the church. In accordance with the constitution, The Book of Order, of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. the congregation will also be voting on the pastor's compensation package.

For purposes of congregational meetings, only those who are officially "active members" and present at the meeting in-person or electronically may vote. All friends and those who are part of the family, but not members will be able to ask questions and be part of the whole meeting, but not actually vote. If you question whether you are an official "active member" please email or leave a phone message asking, and it will be looked up.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael and Miriam Costa

BIRTHDAYS

Phil Adams

Bill Bridges

Heidi Dessecker

James Haugh

Harry MacGillis

Meredith Piplani

Bob Resek

Marianne Shick

Kris Stinson

Jean Trout

Betsy Wadsworth



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET UPDATE

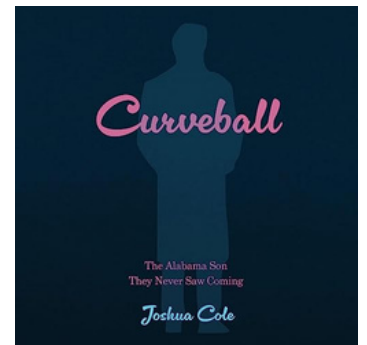


The Peacemaking Committee thanks all for your generous contributions to the Alternative Christmas Market. Your donations will help spread Jesus' message of lifting up the marginalized in our society. A total of \$4,043 was raised! Below is a breakdown of its distributions.

Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps	\$145
Blue Water Baltimore	\$445
Cuba Partnership	\$150
Food Pantry	\$1,348
Family Survivor Network	\$245
Guns 2 Gardens	\$150
Hears and Ears	\$155
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	
Israel/Palestine	\$250
Hawaii	\$240
Roca	\$425
Women's Housing Coalition	\$490

GUEST SPEAKER: JOSH COLE

The Adult Forum with trans memoirist Josh Cole has been rescheduled for January 7, the first Sunday of Epiphany. Josh will share from his memoir, *Curveball: The Alabama Boy They Never Saw Coming* and talk about his experiences with his Southern Baptist Church and his family when he made his transition. We hope Josh will help us learn to be more inclusive and understanding. In the January 7 worship service, Josh's classmate Stephen Hollaway is preaching and Josh will give a 4-minute reading of the last chapter in his memoir.



TOY DRIVE UPDATES

The large donation of toys, dolls, games and books were delivered, and the Child Life faculty at University Hospital was delighted by your generosity! Thank you very much! Happy Christmas Eve Multiage Class! We meet on Christmas Eve, but there will be no class on December 31, 2023. Naturally, our upcoming class will dwell on the birth of Jesus as found in the book of Luke

EGENTON~ROBERTS FOUNDATION UPDATE



The Board of Managers for the Egenton-Roberts Foundation will be sharing news and information each month on one of the organizations for which we provide grant support. The Board is comprised of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church members and active friends. The grants support programs for girls exclusively.

Middle Grades Partnership is an organization that the Egenton-Roberts Foundation has supported for many years. Each summer, private schools and public schools in Baltimore City are partnered to offer middle school girls the opportunity to participate in a 5-week, full day program that provides a wide range of activities designed to enrich academics and build on interests in the arts, leadership, community outreach, communication skills, and more! The partnership we support is between Lillie May Carroll Jackson Public Charter School and Roland Park Country School and is based at Roland Park.

This summer, board members visited and got to see an English class where work for the summer was centered around a novel, a science class where students were working to construct bridges that could withstand different weights, and a financial literacy class where students were learning to manage budgets and spending—and these activities were just a small part of the day's programming.

Once the summer program is over, students in both schools remain connected by programming throughout the school year that encourages continued relationships through projects and gatherings designed to promote shared experiences.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FUNDS FIRST & FRANKLIN HISTORIC RESEARCH

The Baltimore National Heritage Area has awarded First & Franklin a grant funded by the National Park Service to explore its history at the forefront of the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the mid to late 20th century.

The grant will fund the work of a professional historian who will research newspapers and periodicals as well as relevant church records. The grant will also fund a consultant who will create and submit an updated National Register of Historic Places listing. At the conclusion of the project, the National Register of Historic Places listing would elevate First & Franklin's LGBTQ+ history and nationally recognize First & Franklin as a leader in civil rights and social justice. Your participation in this research would be welcomed. To contribute or participate in the research, please contact Dave Pierson at akahuey@aol.com.



PHOTOS FROM THE 2023 ADVENT SEASON



