

# FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2022

### WORSHIP CALENDAR

**JULY 3:** *Loyalty beyond Self-Interest*  
Jeremiah 14: 19-22; Acts 19: 23-41.

**JULY 10**  
*Why (not) celebrate Calvin's birthday?*  
Malachi 2: 4-9, 3: 1-4.  
Matthew 12: 43-50; 13: 51-52.

**JULY 17**  
*Why (not) Coffeehouse or Night Music?*  
Psalm 42: 1-8,11. Ephesians 5: 15-20.

**JULY 24:** *Can F&F Do Campus Ministry?*  
Ecclesiastes 7: 19-24; 8:1; 12: 9-12.  
II Corinthians 10: 1-6.

**JULY 31:** *Beauty and Usefulness*  
Proverbs 30: 18-19, 29-31; 31: 10, 22,  
25-27, 30-31. Philippians 4: 4-9.

Presentation over lunch in the chapel:  
What is Social Design? With MICA  
Professors Thomas Gardner &  
Pickett S. Harrington

**AUG 7:** *What if the sky is falling?*  
Isaiah 32: 9-15. Luke 21: 5-24.

**AUG 14:** *Planning your death: lost wills  
and new testaments*  
Ezra 1: 2-8, 2: 68-69.  
Galatians 5: 13-15, 6: 7-10.

**AUG 21:** *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral*  
II Timothy 3: 10-17. Hebrews 5: 11-6: 2.

**AUG 28:** *Empowering the People for the  
Work of Ministry.*  
Exodus: 35: 30; 36: 7. Ephesians 4:1-13.

Guest Preacher: Stephen Hollaway

### SEARCH: A "Tell-Some" Recipe for Finding a Pastor



Is it a score-settling novel that almost violates confidentiality? The author, who simulates participation in a pastoral search process, tries to be both honest and to keep it light. The book is *Search* by Michelle Huneven (2022). However critical or wryly comic, does this account of a Unitarian Universalist (UU) minister search have lessons for a Presbyterian Church like ours?

To the first question, if it is a *roman a clef*, we are not close enough to have the key. The 8 committee members are recognizable Southern California types and have credible viewpoints. Will they be able to see the needs of the whole congregation beyond their own preferences? Can they understand the motivations of the people who want to be their pastor?

The narrator is a novelist and restaurant reviewer in her early 50's, and there are real recipes for 13 dishes and about as many cocktails. The Search team meets over dinners, and they do not eat jello salads. She agrees to serve on the search committee partly to use the experience for another book, so a bit of subterfuge runs through her accounts of the conversations, meetings, and interviews. She takes the official notes, then we get her own version.

The book does have lessons for us, some that ring true for any search process, not only one for a religious or spiritual leader. At the same time, for me, there are also lessons that confirm my reformed Calvinist understanding of human nature.

A good search process helps each participant grow in sorting out their own priorities and giving all applicants a fair hearing. The team's initial work is to understand and agree—tentatively—on what their church needs, even if they differ on which candidates can best accomplish it. Despite their more congregational polity (individual church independence), a UU search committee receives some guidance from their denomination. They do their versions of our mission study and church information form.

*continued on next page*

As in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the national body provides a kind of regulated free market, confirming that the candidates meet educational standards and providing standardized information on them.

Also like the Unitarians, we seek diversity among candidates and unity in the final choice. In the book, the search committee is required to generate a consensus with no public dissent. Our dynamics are a bit different, but each member or bloc may wield informal veto power. This is where I saw my Calvinism confirmed.

But first some lessons for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC):

1. We are often attracted to people who look like us. We compensate sometimes by judging those people more harshly or insisting on difference: we need a woman (if we are a man), or a person of a different color or orientation. Who is the “we?”

2. We want someone who will reach particular targeted audiences, and so try to imagine who will be best for that category of person. But we should not “outsource” our own judgment to others, or idealize their experiences. DYO reflecting. Value your own spirituality and worship sense.

3. Reference people have different motivations and loyalties in recommending candidates. A PNC needs to understand the context and, if possible, the work styles and ethics of the candidate’s previous congregations. Sometimes a call or prior position was simply a poor fit. People also learn from their mistakes, even if that is the hardest stuff to talk about.

4. Denominations are small places, with a limited number of seminaries. Pastors who remain part of alumni and other networks for years, adding friends in every presbytery where they serve, and remembering stories. Confidentiality is both essential and hard to maintain.

5. Theology is not reduceable to identity or to the schools where one has been taught. The value of experience is that it tests one’s theology. In the UU church, multi-faith combinations are welcomed and the bias is strong against any remnants of Christianity. Presbyterian candidates are not likely to have as predictable a drive for novelty, but every person should have a mix of objective and subjective elements in their faith.

6. Younger does not always mean more innocent.

What about the Calvinist lessons? Beyond concealing her collecting information for the book, the narrator is a former seminarian. This means she can find out more about candidates through past contacts, though often it is confidential info she cannot share with the whole group. But she is not the only Search team member “gaming the system.” When both a search committee member and a candidate are way less than honest and mature, and when wise members of the committee turn out weaker than expected, the narrator is out-gamed.

What I am calling a “reformed” Calvinism is that realism about inevitable self-interest and that sense of God’s judgment when truth is concealed. This may seem a tough lesson from an entertaining book. The narrator herself, however, has come to see more of what was at stake for her congregation and more of what was at stake for her. And we get the recipes, too. Search committees do not live by discernment alone.

The Nominating Committee is considering the mix of people to best represent our Church’s range of commitments and backgrounds. Serving on a PNC is a serious time commitment and often a serious faith boost. After many interviews, sermons, and references, those elected to the PNC will make one of the most important decisions facing the church for the next decade. Is it your turn to take on a share in this joyful burden?

Pray hard for our future PNC,

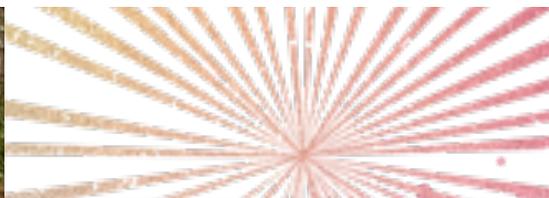
Rev. Christian Iosso, Ph.D., Interim Minister



## LET'S GO TO THE BEACH !

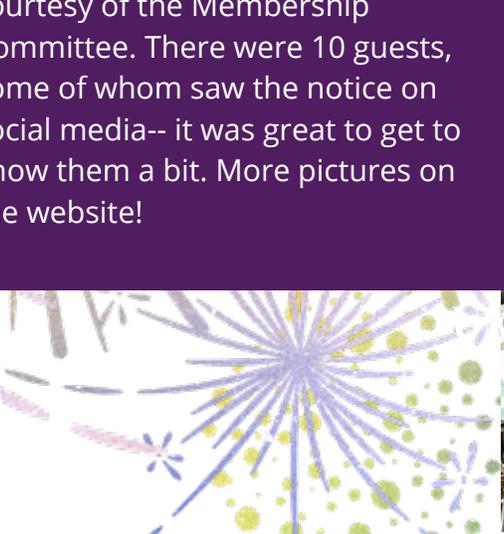
On Saturday, August 6, you're invited to an excursion to Kent Island and a private beach there. We will be hosted by Dave Pierson and Matt Davis, who live in Stevensville, just over the Bay Bridge (and yet they drive to First & Franklin, serving on several committees and Session). The Membership Committee is sponsoring this trip as part of a series of monthly social events which began with the successful July 4 cookout. Becca Hollaway will be organizing a carpool and/or van rental; please let her know if you can drive (rphollaway@gmail.com).

In September, there will be the annual church picnic in the courtyard plus an art show of members' art and hobbies. In October, the committee is planning a Halloween Party at Patrick Allison House, costumes encouraged. In November they are planning a Thanksgiving meal for those who can't get together with family or are new to the community (Becca will need lots of help for that). In December there will be a Christmas party which will include making decorations and collecting gifts for people without homes.



## JULY 4 PICNIC GREAT TIME !

Before the Fireworks, about 30 folks brought potluck and enjoyed cook-out, sangria, watermelon, and fine conversation in the courtyard, courtesy of the Membership Committee. There were 10 guests, some of whom saw the notice on social media-- it was great to get to know them a bit. More pictures on the website!



# FUNDRAISERS

## UKRAINE

Did you know that Baltimore's sister city is Odessa, Ukraine? Please consider supporting BMore for Ukraine a new festival for humanitarian relief that will take place in Patterson Park on July 23 from 12-6 pm. Here is the information:

Please like the Facebook event page and invite your friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/708424813695523>

Tickets can be purchased through the event page or [BMoreforUkraine.eventbrite.com](http://BMoreforUkraine.eventbrite.com)!  
FREE entry for children under 16!

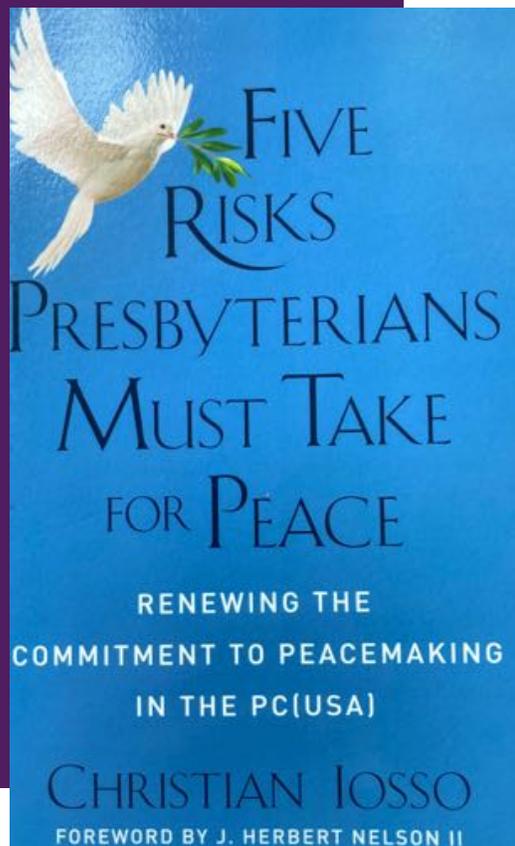
- Food and Drink: Local food and drink vendors like Heavy Seas Beer and Black Flag Brewing Company, and ice cream, too!
- Music and Live Performance: Live Ukrainian and Eastern European music and folk dance performances, including a performance by Mr. David and his brother!
- Games and Raffles, and Prizes: We will have games, raffles, and prizes!
- Kids' activities: Bring the kids! We will have craft activities, face-painting, and more activities for children. FREE entry for kids 16 and under!

Thank you for your support for this great cause, and please remember to share and tell others about it!



## CUBA

**SAVE THE DATE!!!** On Saturday, October 1, you are invited to a Cuban Dinner at Backus House as a fundraiser to help raise funds for "Medicines to Taguasco". There will be a raffle for a Cuban basket full of goodies recently brought back to Baltimore from Cuba. Details to follow.



## ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us before service every Sunday for adult education in Backus House or via [zoom](#).

Meeting ID: 831 0513 8968 | Passcode: 233825

In the month of July, Rev. Chris Iosso will lead a 5-part discussion of peacemaking based on his 2017 book *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace*. Here are the relevant chapters in the book:

- July 3: Risk One: Commit to the Gospel of Peace
- July 10: Risk Two: Confessing Our Complicity
- July 17: Risk Three: Reclaim Christ the Peacemaker
- July 24: Risk Four: Practice New Peace Strategies
- July 31: Risk Five, Part One: To Convert the Empire (Again!); Risk Five, Part Two: Work for Peace
- August 7: Hiroshima/Nagasaki Sunday; peace in the nuclear age
- August 14: How Christians respond to the Ukraine war and the new Cold War2
- August 21: Presbyterian responses to the Palestinian conflict
- August 28: topic TBD

## COMMISSIONING OF F&F REPRESENTATIVES:

Upon the recommendation of the Worship, Music, & Arts Committee, two groups were commissioned on June 19th to represent First & Franklin, with prayers that we reflect God's love both to our partner church in Taguasco, Cuba, and to those we would see in the Pride Parade and picnic. The picture shows our liturgist and elder Scot Spencer reading part of the dedication with those being commissioned on the chancel.



## A SOCIAL DESIGN APPROACH FOR FIRST & FRANKLIN

**Come Join in Discussion over Lunch on July 31! RSVP appreciated!**

Professor [Thomas Gardner](#) is the director of the Social Design Program at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He and his colleague, [Professor Pickett Slater Harrington](#), have volunteered to look at our campus in terms of its usefulness-- current and potential-- to our community as well as the church itself. Their approach combines architectural analysis and an understanding of social groups and processes. As part of their "reading" of our space, they offer the possibility of involving their graduate students in assessing and imagining options for our buildings and operations. How would this work? That is what they will talk about after church on the 31st of July. A light luncheon will be offered-- please bring \$7 to contribute.

For more information click [here](#) or visit <https://www.mica.edu/graduate-programs/social-design-ma/>



# ALL ARE WELCOME!

## TWO NEW MEMBERS & STRONG SPEAKERS ON MORE LIGHT SUNDAY , JUNE 26



When you see them, give a warm welcome to Kristofer Stinson and Ryan-Paul Johnson— if you haven't already. Kris is a PhD candidate at George Mason University and Ryan-Paul designs bicycle-trails and other transportation facilities in the region. (They can be more specific!)

In place of our usual Sunday sermon, we listened to personal accounts from Franklin McNeil, Jr. and Alex Mendelsohn. Both fine statements are available online. They were followed by a solo dedicated by John McLucas to the late pastor Rev. Harry Holfelder, who opened a new stage in the church's inclusive ministry.

The service then included Kris, Ryan-Paul, Frank, Alex, Allie Pyan (Clerk of Session), and pastor in a re-affirmation of our church's More Light covenant (contact the church office for a copy).



## PRIDE WEEKEND WITH FIRST & FRANKLIN



We know June is Pride Month but we have never limited our support to a single month. Did you know that in 1980 First & Franklin became a nationally known leader in the "More Light" movement for inclusive ordination and eventually marriage equality of LGBTQ+ people in the PCUSA? We were one of the original "Welcoming" churches in Baltimore and WE STILL ARE!





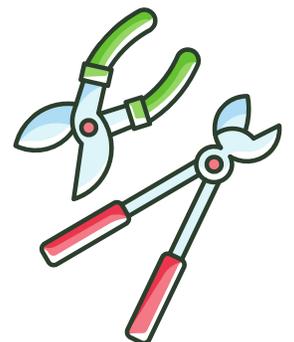
## Gun Buy-Back Event September 17

The Peacemaking Committee is offering a gun buy-back event on Saturday, September 17, at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the church courtyard. The project is part of a nationwide "Guns 2 Gardens" project. Anyone may bring an unwanted (and unloaded) gun which will be dismantled by cutting them into pieces with a chop saw. The parts are then forged by blacksmiths into garden tools, taking as a model the biblical prophecy of turning swords into plowshares.

This event is part of our efforts to reduce violence by reducing the number of guns just lying around in homes in our community. Two-thirds of all gun deaths are suicides, and most are unplanned. That impulsive action might have been prevented if a gun had not been available in the home. Parents and grandparents may want to make sure that children do not find a gun in the house and accidentally discharge it. Some guns wind up being used when domestic disputes get heated. Removing guns from the home is an important safety step.

Gun owners who donate an operable gun for dismantling will receive gift cards valued at \$100 to \$250 as a thank-you gift once the gun is chopped up. (Legally, there will be no transfer of the gun and no sale.) Cards will be \$100 for handgun or long gun, \$200 for semi-automatic weapons, and \$250 for assault weapons.

The Peacemaking Committee has received a generous grant from the Baltimore Presbytery, but it will cover less than half our anticipated expenses, mostly for gift cards. We are applying to corporations and businesses for additional grants, but we need donations from individuals as well. You can find information on Guns 2 Gardens on the church web site at [www.firstfranklin.org/guns-2-gardens](http://www.firstfranklin.org/guns-2-gardens). There is a PayPal link for making donations at [www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=3GGAM86WGELCE](http://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=3GGAM86WGELCE).





**bread**fortheworld

HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

For decades, Bread for the World's Offering of Letters has served as a powerful tool to bring our values and concerns to the halls of power. A thoughtful letter to your member of Congress is a strong witness of personal testimony. Over decades, these letters and emails from congregations, campuses, and community groups have inspired legislative victories to reduce hunger in the United States and around the world.

This year, Bread for the World members and staff are pressing Congress to provide funding for emergency food aid. This aid is urgently needed. The war in Ukraine has worsened the food shortages for those who were already struggling with hunger because of the pandemic, rising food prices, and climate change. Twenty-five countries in Africa import more than a third of their wheat from Russia and the Ukraine. In East Africa, four straight years of drought have created even more hardship there. Millions of children in Ethiopia, Somalia, and elsewhere are on the brink of famine. In Afghanistan, 95 percent of the population doesn't have enough to eat.

The World Food Program is struggling to meet this dire emergency. In some places, food prices have doubled. The program's chief executive has said, "We have no choice but to take food from the hungry to feed the starving."

On Sundays, July 17, 24, and 31, the peacemaking committee will provide information and a place to write letters during coffee hour. If you write your letters from home, please let us know your tally so we can inform Bread for the World of our numbers. Let us unite our voices to make a difference in the lives of those who are living a life of hunger.

**PLEASE CONSIDER  
CALLING (800-826-3688)  
OR WRITING A LETTER  
TO YOUR MEMBER OF  
CONGRESS ASKING FOR  
A SUPPORTIVE  
RESPONSE TO THIS  
HUNGER SURGE BY  
ADVANCING POLICIES  
ON THREE FRONTS:**

1. Full funding for the World Food Program's emergency food aid
2. An increase in funding for global nutrition programs, with focus on women and children in the critical first 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's 2nd birthday
3. Passage of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act in the Senate which would make ending child malnutrition a permanent priority for the U.S.

# JULY HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF F&F

written by Dave Pierson

## Robert Gilmore: President Baltimore Monument Committee

7/4

July 4, 1820 Robert Gilmore Jr. becomes President, Board of Managers, Baltimore Monument Committee overseeing design, construction and funding of Baltimore's Washington monument.

## BIRTH OF JEROME NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

7/5

July 5, 1805, Betsy Patterson gives birth to Napoleon's nephew, Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte. Death of Napoleon III in France makes Baltimore's Bonapartes arguably heirs to the French throne.

## CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AUTHORIZES CHAPLAINS FOR TROOPS

7/9

July 9, 1776 Continental Congress/George Washington authorize The Continental Army to provide Chaplains for troops. Patrick Allison served the Continental Congress in Baltimore.

## GROUND BROKEN FOR THE NEW CHURCH AT PARK & MADISON

7/14

July 14, 1854 Ground broken for the new church at Park & Madison. Cost of the church is \$139,000 (without spire added in 1874).



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 - Alex Mendelsohn
- 4 - David Pierson
- 13 - Pam White
- 16 - Scot Spencer
- 17 - Craig Smith
- 24 - John Johnston
- 28 - Gail Birdsong
- 28 - Stephen Hollaway
- 29 - Barbara Drought
- 30 - Nonso Anaedozi

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 12 - David Pierson & Matt Davis
- 13 - Sarah Lloyd & Alex Seaver
- 30 - Pam White & Susan Vogt

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 - Doug Savin
- 4 - Wallace Costa
- 4 - Don Juedes
- 9 - Jim Sinclair
- 11 - Oneyka Anaedozi
- 13 - Jyotirai Pucino Amin
- 14 - Madge Franklin
- 18 - Martha Armenti
- 20 - Geoff Wadsworth
- 22 - Paul Fowler
- 22 - Bryce St. Clair
- 23 - Anne Culbertson
- 24 - Rhonda Cooper
- 25 - Linda Holfelder
- 26 - Stephen Clarke
- 28 - Charley Boynton
- 29 - Gabriel Hoch

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9 - Audrey Suhr & Rol Anders
- 14 - Rhonda Cooper & John Wolford

## FULL TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR & WEDDING COORDINATOR



Tiarra is now a full time employee of First & Franklin! On May 26, she graduated with a bachelors of science in Business Administration from Towson University. We are thrilled to have continue her journey with our beloved First & Franklin Community.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm.



**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?

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 July/August Newsletter by August 22, 2022.**

**NEW UPDATE**



## SESSION

The Session is continuously working to uphold the values of First & Franklin. Click Below to find out the latest happenings of the church!

<https://www.firstfranklin.org/session-minutes-june-28-2022/>