

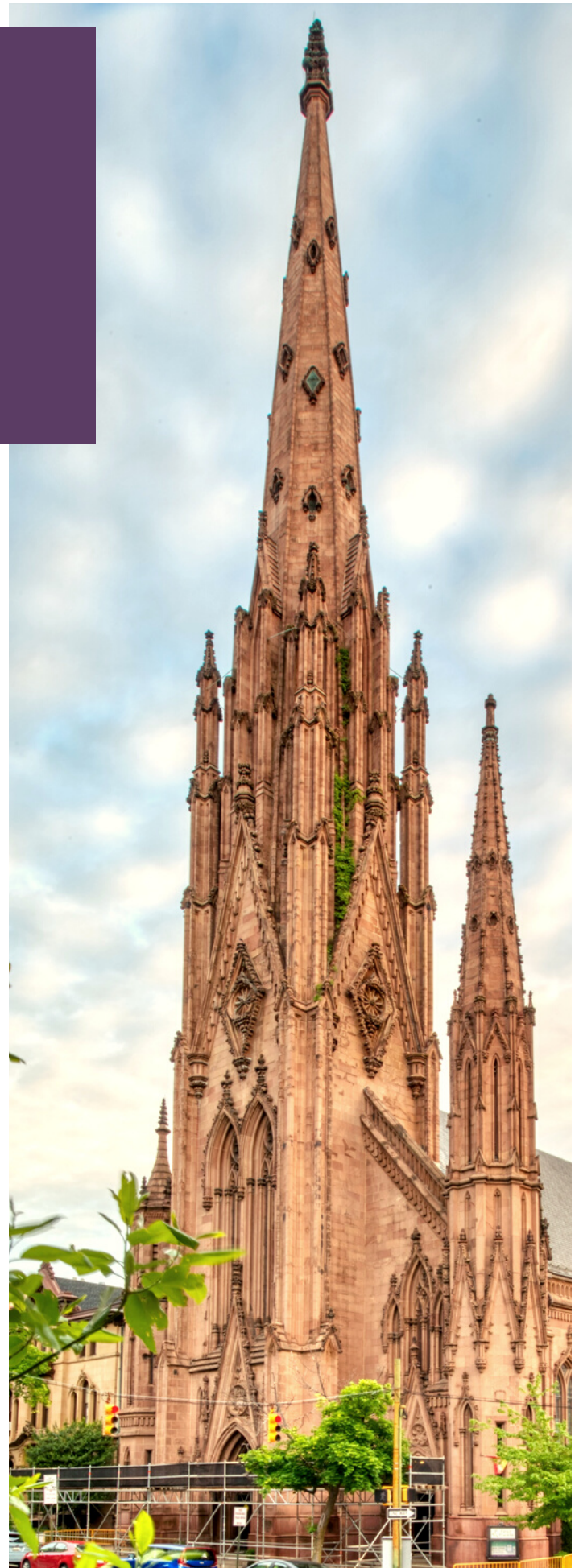
JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

FIRST & FRANKLIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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INTRODUCING STEVE NOFEL

We are pleased to introduce Rev. Steve Nofel. Steve will serve as a bridge pastor for us until a permanent pastor is selected. He will split his time between our congregation and Churchville Presbyterian Church, and will preach every other Sunday. On the other Sundays, we will continue to be gifted with experiencing different styles of preaching through pulpit supply.

Steve was originally ordained in another denomination 32 years ago. He has been a PCUSA pastor for 28 plus years. His wife, Kim, is also a PCUSA pastor. Right after they were married, they moved to her first call in southeast Nebraska. Steve fell into interim / transitional ministry and found his calling. He served as an interim minister for 11 years. Then Kim and Steve became co-pastors for 12 years in Cortez, Colorado. After leaving Cortez, he once again found his niche in transitional ministry. Steve has been serving congregations in Baltimore Presbytery as "Staff Interim" for the last year.

Kim and Steve have two great adult sons, Chuck and Matt. Not listed in any kind of order, Steve loves baseball history, sumo, hiking and walking, studying the Bible, his family and listening to and reading dozens of books a year.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Obie Anaedozie
Aloma Bouma
Corena Bridges
Becky Brown
Bernard Brown
Jake Elfner
Haswell Franklin
Steve Lapsley
Betty Loafmann
Michael Lucas
Laurel Martin
John McLucas
George Meagher
Jim Morgan
LoisAnn Oler
Jill Randles
Tom Scuderi

ANNIVERSARIES

Phil Adams
& Gary Norris

Rachel Brash
& Alec MacGillis

Connie Fischel
& David Fischel

Rev. Alison Halsey
& Rev. Bill Hathaway

Becca Hollaway
& Rev. Stephen Hollaway

Hon. David Rice
& Gail Rice

Dr. Doug Savin
& Rev. Jan Trammell-Savin

TRAVEL TO CUBA

Two opportunities are opening up for us to travel to Cuba and visit our sister church in Taguasco. The first visit will be an Encuentro which is being planned for either the end of November or the first week of December. An Encuentro is a Presbytery-to-Presbytery Gathering which is held every other year. Each church in the Baltimore Presbytery may send 2-3 people to this event. During the first part of the week, you will spend several days visiting our family in Taguasco. In the last few days of the week, a general meeting will be held with all the churches of El Centro Presbytery and the Baltimore Presbytery. Time is spent in study, worship, discussions, and fun events together. This type of trip is an excellent way to get a feel of the bonds between the two Presbyteries and visit our partner church. The second opportunity will be a church-to-church visit in February of 2024. We can set our dates directly with Taguasco and spend approximately 5 days visiting with them. You will be able to meet many members of the congregation, be a part of their ministries, and share love and concerns about our congregations.

For both visits, you will need a current passport and the cost will be around \$1500. We need to leave 4 months in advance to process our visas, so now is the time to plan our visit. Personally, our relationship with Taguasco has been life changing, brought joy, and deepened my faith. I hope others involved with First and Franklin will also be a part of this relationship. Please contact Betty Schroll or call the church office at 410 728 5545 for more information.



SISSETON LEARNING CAMP RAFFLE

We have ten people who are going to lead the learning camp in Sisseton SD this July, five of them from our church. We have been given a quilt made by one of the Dakota men. We are raffling off tickets for the Quilt for \$5 each or 3 for \$10 to help cover expenses for the team. The quilt will be in Reid Chapel during coffee hour. Please see Marla Holt or Becca Hollaway to get your tickets. Checks should be made out to the Presbytery of Baltimore with the memo line for Sisseton Learning Camp but cash is welcome. Drawing will be held on July 16th.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Thank you to everyone who wrote to our legislators in Washington asking for support funding for the Farm Bill. 29 letters were sent from our congregation! If you were not able to write a letter, the opportunity is still available. The Bread for the World website, www.bread.org, has excellent information on this year's action which makes letter writing very easy.



AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT DISPLAY



The AIDS Memorial Quilt Display is open now through June 28th! We are displaying two panels of the AIDS quilt to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic in Baltimore, and the pivotal role that First & Franklin played in supporting and advocating for people with AIDS. Visitation hours will be Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00-2:00pm, and Wednesday from 5:30-7:00pm. We are still seeking volunteers to help cover these hours. If you are interested in volunteering, please look for the sign up sheet in our Thursday email blast, or call the church office at (410) 728 5545 for more information.

PRIDE MONTH FESTIVITIES

Baltimore's LGBTQ Pride festivities this year are on Saturday, June 24th and Sunday, June 25th. First & Franklin will be having a blast marching about a mile with Faith Communities of Baltimore starting at 1PM on Saturday. We will have a booth at the festival in Druid Hill Park on Sunday after worship. We are looking for lots of people to march and to work an hour or two at the booth so we can meet people, tell them about our great congregation, and show some love for this community that needs support. Clear your schedule and look for opportunities to sign up in the coming weeks.



THE BIBLE AND SEXUALITY: A GUIDED DISCUSSION



For Pride month, Adult Education will be hosting a series on sexuality and the church! Join us on June 11, 18, and 25 at 9:00am in Backus house as we explore the history of LGBTQ individuals in the church, the way the Bible has been used against such people, and how you can help others see a deeper story of hope, love, and inclusion within the biblical narrative. We hope you will finish the series equipped to be instruments of affirmation as we all become better versed in scripture's sexual ethic. Donuts and coffee will be provided!

FINAL SPIRE SERIES CONCERT

On Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 3:00pm, The Spire Series at First & Franklin will host Sara Davis Buechner for a concert program titled "Prelude to Pride." Davis, a Baltimore native, is one of the most original concert pianists and storytellers of our time. She is also a proud transgender woman, and the perfect artist to help us kick off our 2023 Pride Month festivities! Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.firstfranklin.org/event/preludetopride/> for \$10-25.



PER CAPITA PARTICIPATION

Per Capita 2023 Participation



First & Franklin is preparing to submit our annual Per Capita fee to the Presbytery of Baltimore and it is based on our membership rolls. Currently, we have less than 50% of our membership participating. 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. This year First & Franklin will pay \$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 per person 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. You can also use this link to pay online: <http://www.firstfranklin.org/percapita>

PNC UPDATES

The Ministry Information Form (MIF) for the Pastor position here at First & Franklin is live on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website! We are scheduling initial conversations with promising candidates and requesting additional matching PIFs from CLC. For those less familiar with the terminology, the MIF is essentially our 'job posting', a PIF is a pastor's resume, and CLC actively matches our position with compatible pastors. As a reminder, this is a confidential process. We cannot discuss any specifics or candidates. However, we will keep you updated as we go along in the process. Please keep this search and our committee in your prayers as we move through this process.



SERENITY BY 10:10



On Sunday, May 7th, the Worship, Music, & Arts Committee invited members and friends to attend a short walkthrough orientation on how to prepare the Sanctuary for worship. Our goal is to have the Sanctuary be a serene place for people arriving to utilize their few minutes before worship to center themselves in the space and in God. Tasks include things like placing linens, flowers, and offering plates in the proper places, and lighting candles. We had 7 people attend - thank you! If you were not able to attend, we would still love for you to help! Please email Anna Pollitt at apollitt@firstfranklin.org for links to the recording and to a PDF of what we learned.

BSA: ARMSTRONG HONORS RECITAL

On Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00pm, The Spire Series at First & Franklin hosted The Armstrong Honors Recital by the Baltimore School for the Arts. This concert featured four distinguished students from the Class of 2023. This annual performance was named for one of Baltimore's great educators and BSA founder, Margaret Armstrong.



POETRY READING: *TIN EAR*

On Sunday, May 28, the Music, Worship, and Arts Committee hosted a poetry reading and book signing in the church courtyard. Steve Hollaway read from his just-released book of poems *Tin Ear*. These poems reflect his concerns as a 70-year-old – in particular the experience of hearing loss and tinnitus. The language of faith permeates the book but it is not the faith of youth. By the way, Steve Hollaway recently graduated from the University of Baltimore with his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts!

UPDATES ON COILA

Coila Seiber has moved from Stella Maris to long term care at Lorian at Mays Chapel. Here she will receive interactive care but she still loves to hear from her beloved church community. If you would like to visit her, please call the church office at (410) 728-5545 for her room and telephone number.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATES

For the month of May, the Food Pantry at First & Franklin distributed food and produce to 107 residents in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood. That makes a total of 214 bags which consists of 107 Groceries and 107 Produce. June of this year is the start of our 3rd anniversary of this Ministry, which started at Reid Chapel under the supervision of former member Sabrina Schumann. It is now under the supervision of Corena Bridges. The Food Pantry has been temporarily relocated to Backus House through the end of June. Additionally, there will be no Food Pantry on the last Saturday of each month, to give our volunteers a much needed break.





SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

In this month's Multiage Class message, I am reporting that the two classes are doing extremely well. The fourth grade students will graduate to middle school Biblical instruction next year because they are both academically and religiously ready! I am happy to report that Sophia Smith has moved from a non-reader to a fine reader this year, so she will move from the pre-kindergarten program to the K-1 program in September. I told Sophia that I am so happy to see how well she is reading and her earnest reply was, "I go to school." She too knows more about the Lord than one would expect from a Kindergarten student.

The families work with their children at home regarding biblical comprehension, and that helps the class run smoothly. On Sunday, June 4, 2023, we will have our final Multiage Class for the school year. We continue to study the Apostles' work and their troubles spread the Word. We will have our annual ice cream party directly after church in the courtyard. We will continue our work on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:15 AM

MAY PHOTOS



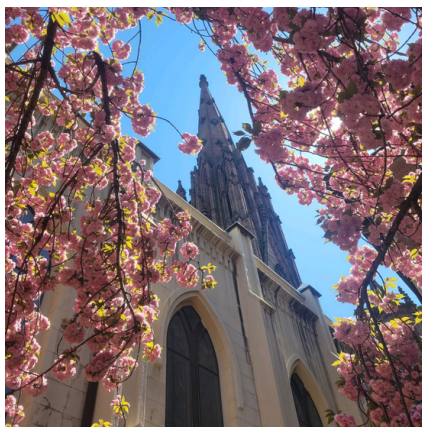
Left: Steve Nofel preaches for the first time on Pentecost Sunday.

Right: Calvert Mechanical Solutions works to repair First & Franklin's HVAC system.

Below: The cherry blossom tree in the church courtyard in bloom.



Below: Jim Harvey creates a Pride quilt to adorn our chancel for the month of June.



Below: Jamie Caffes and Ashley Strong held their wedding ceremony in First & Franklin's sanctuary.



JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

06/03 Sat 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/03 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus House)
06/04 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Last Day of Sunday School ~ Ice Cream Party (Backus House)
06/04 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | No Adult Education
06/04 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rev. Janine Zabriskie
06/04 Sun 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/04 Sun 3:00pm-5:00pm | The Spire Series Presents... Prelude to Pride: Sara Davis Buechner, piano (Sanctuary)
06/05 Mon 8:00am-5:00pm | Filming (Sanctuary)
06/06 Tue 8:00am-5:00pm | Filming (Sanctuary)
06/06 Tue 7:00pm-8:30pm | Peacemaking Committee Meeting
06/07 Wed 8:00am-5:00pm | Filming (Sanctuary)
06/07 Wed 5:30pm-7:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/10 Sat 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/10 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus House)
06/11 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | The Bible and Sexuality: A Guided Discussion (Backus House)
06/11 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rev. Steve Nofel
06/11 Sun 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/13 Tue 7:00pm-8:30pm | Photoshoot (Backus House)
06/14 Wed 5:30pm-7:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/14 Wed 7:00pm-8:00pm | Membership Committee Meeting
06/15 Thu 6:30pm-8:15pm | Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
06/17 Sat 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/17 Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm | Food Pantry (Backus House)
06/18 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | The Bible and Sexuality: A Guided Discussion (Backus House)
06/18 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rev. Dorothy LaPenta
06/18 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | The Bible and Sexuality: A Guided Discussion (Backus House)
06/19 Mon 5:30pm-7:00pm | Worship Music & Arts Committee Meeting
06/20 Tue 7:00pm-8:30pm | Education Committee Meeting
06/21 Wed 5:30pm-7:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/24 Sat 12:00pm-3:00pm | Pride Parade
06/24 Sat 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/25 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | The Bible and Sexuality: A Guided Discussion (Backus House)
06/25 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Guest Preacher: Rev. Steve Nofel
06/25 Sun 12:00pm-2:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)
06/25 Sun 11:00am-5:00pm | Pride Festival
06/27 Tue 6:30pm-8:30pm | Session Meeting
06/28 Wed 5:30pm-7:00pm | AIDS Quilt Exhibit Open (Reid Chapel)