



FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMMUNITY *News*

JUNE 2021



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

WORSHIP CALENDAR

June 6: *“Mount Nebo & Mount Vernon”*

Deuteronomy 34:1-6; Proverbs 29:18
1 Corinthians 3:10-15.
Liturgist: Allie Pyan
Ushers: Mike Johnson & Marla Holt

June 13: *“Lessons from Chinese Christianity”*

Proverbs: 10:1-2, 17-19, Acts 5:27-42
Hebrews 10:32-39.
Liturgist: Ruth Paradise

June 20: *“Fear of Fathering”*

Deuteronomy 6:1-9,
1 Corinthians 4:14-21.
Baptism of Sofia Schenk
Liturgist: Jim Schroll
Usher: Nusrat David & Marianne Shick

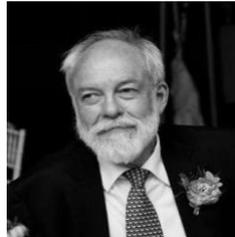
June 27: *“What Is a Congregation?”*

11 Kings 23:1-5, 20. Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-16, Acts 15:22-32.
Liturgist: John McLucas
Usher: Jim & Betty Schroll

July 4: *“Honest Patriotism”*

Job 34:16-22, 26-30
1 Peter 3:8-18, 4:16-19.
Liturgist: TBA
Usher: Mike Johnson & Paula Crews

SIGNS FOR NEW TIMES



From the still-new Minister:

On Friday, May 21, a man whose avocation is photographing churches and other historic sites gave us the gift of his skill and curiosity. I share here the results with enthusiasm and thanks to Dr. Brian Kutner for giving us permission to use these pictures, with proper credit of course. Here is the Facebook link: www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10215838665559539&type=3

This new friend saw our spire when he was at a nearby church and hopes to climb it part-way, as I do myself. He has already researched the iron construction used, for the core structure is very strong even if some of the stone cladding is relatively soft. His pictures also show a vine growing at one spot that provides some urgency to our treating the surface again.

Several years ago, John Boyd made the very good suggestion that we put welcoming posters up on the scaffolding; now we have additional pictures to work with. Session, at its May 22nd retreat, authorized us to proceed with inviting pictures and messages. I pass their encouragement on to everyone to think of short messages our church would want to share with passers-and-drivers-by. What kinds of pictures would you pair with those messages?

At this time, your Session has been doing excellent work on the balancing mission and sustainability. I do hope, that this work gives as well as takes energy, thanks to the Spirit.

Several of us are also working on a July 17-18 Music, Art, and Faith Retreat for high schoolers and recent graduates, to be held on our campus with trips to other cultural institutions nearby. This is an exciting venture and a form of sharing and service to our neighbors-- in the spirit of inclusive, ecumenical, justice-and-art loving faith.

Those words, of course, are meant to stimulate our thinking about those messages, writ large enough for runners to read, as Habakkuk 2:2 says. And photos to be made into flexible, durable signs, perhaps of weddings, the choir, the organ loft, the chancel, and table (we really don't have an altar; our ministers are not priests...), with the challenges of deciding how to include faces without having them too identifiable.

So please write the church office with ideas, and perhaps volunteer to serve on a task force on this project. It should be fun.

More important than outside labels is the content inside. This means worship that is solid and a congregation prepared to help others out of sometimes lonely places. See you in the pews soon, let us hope!

Grace and peace, Chris

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

June 28 (5 business days before end of month)

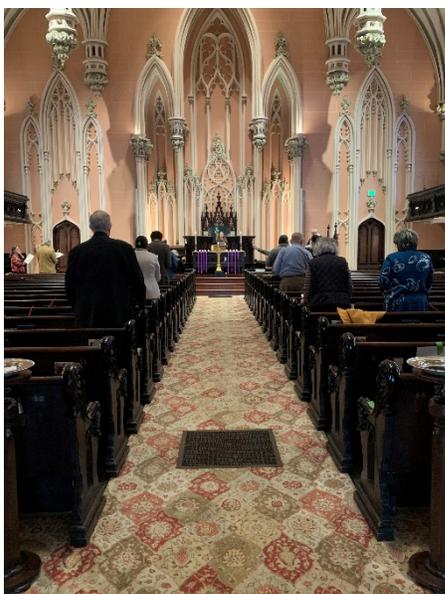
Please submit your meeting dates, committee updates, news & notes and photos as soon as possible in the month so we can begin the layout process. Thank you!

SESSION UPDATE (of May 18, 2021) on IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We hope you can safely join us in our beautiful space again! Please respect all worshipers and staff by complying with the following conditions:

In-person worship will continue to be limited to 32 “pods” spaced within the sanctuary, with a “pod” defined as one or more persons living in the same home. The pastor, liturgist, ushers, or - as permitted below - musicians - are not to be counted in that total.

- Pre-registration is no longer required.
- The collection of contact tracing information will continue for all in-person participants. See sign-in sheet at front entrance area (the narthex). Bulletins can also be picked up as you enter and offering envelopes put in baskets. Prayer request forms are also available to be filled out and put in baskets during the service.
- In-person worshippers must be masked, except when speaking from the pulpit/communion table.
- Singing by congregants will be permitted with masks until that requirement is lifted.
- Worship services will continue to be shared on-line using the Zoom and Facebook platforms.
- Pending development of a process to allow live musical performances to be streamed on-line, the organ can be used for live performance (prelude, postlude, hymns, responses, and anthems) and small (4 - 6 vaccinated singers) choral groups may perform live unmasked.
- For the protection of themselves and others, in-person worshippers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated and to observe social distancing. In-person worshippers are also invited to fellowship afterward in the courtyard or in Reid Chapel, depending upon the weather.



NEW DIRECTORY!



UPDATE

We are starting to get Directory Forms back and we are hoping to wrap up the project by the end of June. Have you submitted yours yet? Please help us connect our community with your information.

If you need a hard copy mailed to you or you need help with a picture, please let us know.

Please click: [Directory Form](#) to fill out the Directory Form so that you can submit your information to be included in First & Franklin's Directory. The completed form should be submitted to Directory@firstfranklin.org. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



We concluded our spring Stewardship campaign with a brown-bag lunch and music in the courtyard. We've received 27 pledges, totaling \$127,804. Many thanks to all who pledged and all who came to share fellowship on Stewardship Sunday! Your gifts support the preaching, music, beautiful spaces,

and missions we love about First & Franklin. If you meant to make a pledge, but have not yet, it is not too late! You can still contact the church office by phone or email to pledge, or click the link at the top of our website Home page.

CALL FOR USHERS, COFFEE-HOUR HOSTS, AND LITURGISTS



Now that we are inviting you to in-person worship, we need YOUR help to fill our schedule with ushers, liturgists and fellowship or coffee

hour hosts (please individually wrap your food items at this time.)

One approach in many congregations is to sign up for a regular Sunday for several months at a time, and couples or friends often sign up to usher together. Those volunteering for "First Sunday of the Month" should be ready to help serve communion.

Please consider this donation of your time as part of your gift to your church. Pull out your calendar and let's fill up those open spaces. Please reach out to the Worship Committee or the Church Office to sign up!

June 6 & 27– Fellowship
June 13 - Ushers

July 4 – Fellowship & Liturgist
July 11 – all positions

THE FOOD PANTRY MISSION: Saturdays, Noon – 2:00 P.M.

Hunger has been a longstanding concern of First and Franklin. With the homeless population explosion in the '80's, the breakfast feeding program began and then later transformed by the turn of the century into a food pantry out of Backus House's basement. Probably ten years later the Tea and Theology group started the brown bag ministry which gave us all a chance to offer a small gift of food with information on available services to those living on the streets and to make a personal contact with that person. Now the pandemic has again opened our eyes to the needs of our neighbors and again we are busy with another food pantry.

On the flip side of the hunger coin, First and Franklin has been writing letters to our congressional leaders for the Bread of the World Offering of Letters for over 30 years. The letters are written with the hope of making a difference in how our government serves those who experience food insecurity. Those who are hungry hold a special place in the teachings of Jesus. As more research has gone into learning the consequences of hunger on child development, the mental stress on adults, and the diminished ability of all ages to function up to one's potential, we must continue to keep our attention on Jesus' calling to help those who are in need.

Thanks to all who have so faithfully helped fund the food pantry and written letters for Bread for the World. The needs for both efforts will continue to require support. If you have not had time to write a letter, it's not too late. And it's never too late to bring in food or monetary donations for the pantry. Hunger is still with us.

Please continue to choose food items from the following list plus any items that you think would make meals a little special (such as condiments). Personal items are also excepted, such as soaps, shampoos, and feminine personal products. Peanut butter and jelly are items we try to pack in every bag and thus they run out first.

Please only send unopened containers and paper or plastic bags are needed for packing.

Here is the list of foods we try to provide: Applesauce, canned fruit and dried fruit, Rice and beans, Peanut butter and jelly, Cereal or oatmeal, and canned or powdered milk, Tuna fish and other canned meats, Spaghetti or pasta and tomato sauce, Soup, Canned vegetables, Popcorn and cookies, Paper towels, Toilet paper.

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at ssschuma@gmail.com or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.



Thank you, The Peacemaking Committee

(Note: under the new Committee structure, this venerable committee is part of Education & Mission)

WELCOME BACK, BETH QUIMBY FISCHER!



As part of worship on Sunday, June 6, pianist Beth Quimby Fischer will play the Prelude, Offertory and Postlude selections via pre-recorded video/audio.

Beth was a beloved volunteer in the First & Franklin Sanctuary

Choir during her study at Peabody, and even wrote and dedicated a short anthem to our choir. Now a resident of Rochester, New York, Beth continues her work as a teacher of piano, church musician and freelance pianist.

Church Committee Meeting Schedule



6/7 - Mission & Education Meeting - 7:00 pm
6/8 - Session Meeting - 6:30 pm
6/17 - Membership Meeting - 7:00 pm
6/22 - Finance Meeting - 5:15 pm
6/27 - CONGREGATIONAL Meeting 11:30 am

THE SPIRE SERIES

The Fifth Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon concert, professionally filmed in the sanctuary at First & Franklin, is now available for viewing on YouTube! Viewers continue sending expressions of gratitude, along with contributions in support of the work of the series.



Dear Jason,

“Once again, I would like to thank you for all you do for your church and community. Thank you so much for continuing The Spire Series, and especially the Piano Marathon. I hope to be able to attend in the near future.”

A Shouting Methodist Friend, Diane Merriam

In the course of its five years, the marathon has featured pianists of Greater Baltimore, ages 17 through 80! View the 5th Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9yMuvN2Fg4>



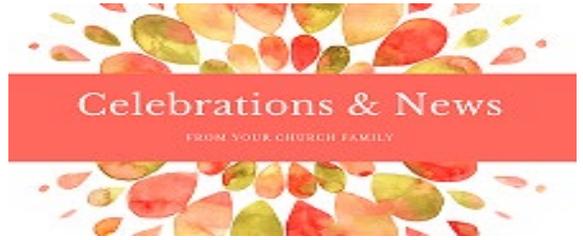
Birthdays

6 - Haswell Franklin
8 - Betty Loafmann
18 - Michael Lucas
20 - Jill Randles
27 - Steve Lapsley
28 - John McLucas
29 - Jim Morgan

Anniversaries

2 - David & Gail Rice
10 - Steven Lapsley & Jim Sinclair
11 - Connie & David Fischel
18.- Doug Savin & Jan Trammel-Savin
24 - Becca & Steve Hollaway
28 - Phil Adams & Gary Norris

Did we miss including yours? Please let us know!



- ❖ Congratulations to Jim Harvey and John Johnston on their recent wedding. They were married on May 12, 2021 at the Towson Courthouse.



- ❖ We are thrilled to celebrate this good news! We are ever so grateful to the F&F community for supporting us through Kylie's adoption. Our family continues to grow with you all. In addition, we are looking forward to welcoming our newest addition, a baby boy, due in mid- August.

Anjal, Amy, Lola, and Kylie

- ❖ Kara and Lee Schenk are looking forward to celebrating the baptism of their daughter, Sofia, with us during our worship service on June 20th. Please plan to attend and welcome her into our community!



Please send YOUR news to the church office to include so we can celebrate together. Graduations, weddings, babies, work changes, new houses, you name it!

POEM of the Month:

“In the Nave” by Steve Hollaway

like being in a boat.
It's like sitting in God's brain,
dendrites overhead, white
neurons webbed against
a pink sky. Each stretched nerve
ends in blossoms, flamboyant.
God's thoughts run along living wires
jumping plaster synapses with
an afterscent not ozone but peaches.
Countless short lines repeat
as a Bach fugue rhymes itself,
playful, redundant, crisp.
This mind unagitated, simple
for all that mystery, emits
a hum below hearing, bouncing
off dark pews which shimmer
cinnamon-clove above stone.

"The Sentinel " was used as the name of this newsletter at one time, making reference to a 1913 poem by the Congregationalist minister, Dr. Oliver Huckel (printed, with a picture of the church, in John Gardner's *Two Century Chronicle* history (1962)). The May 30th sermon also used Biblical sentinel references.

The Sentinel of God

IT stands there—splendid sentinel of God!
A silent witness, wonderful and strong;
Symbol of peace and hope and righteousness,
To all our city's weary, restless throng.

IT stands there—beautiful and dark and tall,
Like some colossal angel, hooded tight
In ancient Gothic mantle, brown with age—
But matchless in its majesty and might.

IT stands there—welcoming each radiant day,
Wondrous at sunrise; and at golden noon;
At sunset in an iridescent light;
At night illumed with stars and silver moon.

IT stands there—adamantine in the storms;
The skies with awful lightnings riven;
The thunders roaring and the tempest wild—
But calm it lifts its glorious head toward
Heaven.

IT stands there—speaking, pointing up
to God:
"O sons of men, and slaves of pain and
fear,
Struggling for bread and fighting fierce
for gold
Look upward! Heaven is open! God is
near!"

IT stands there—rock-built in its splendid
strength.
Sending eternal messages abroad;
Telling of deathless duty and high hope,
Dark angel and great sentinel of God!

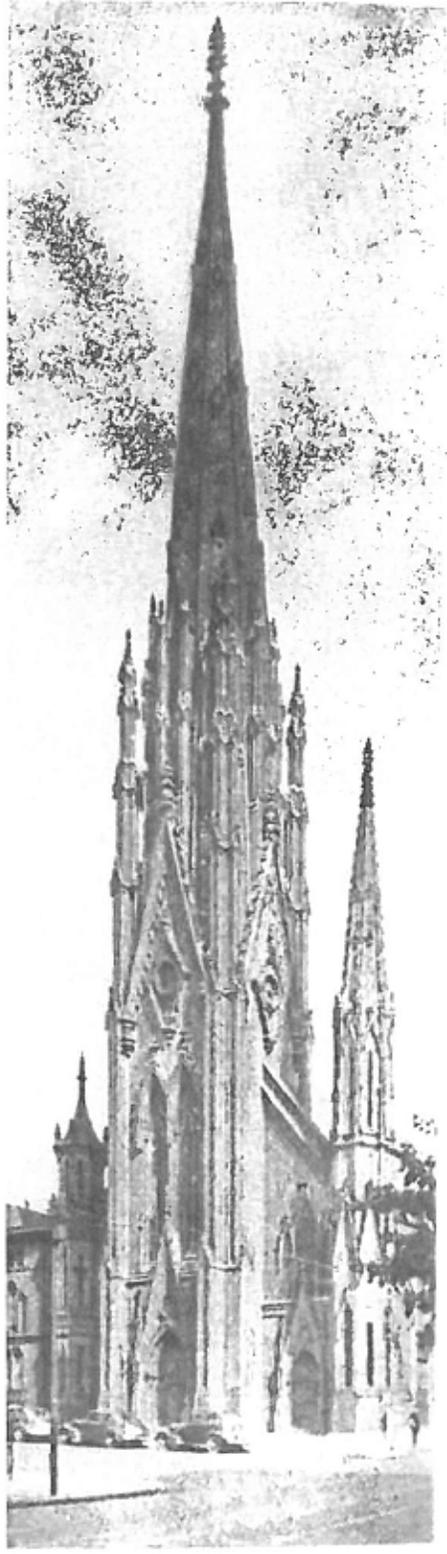


PLATE XII.—DR. OLIVER HUCKEL'S POEM

INTERIM TASKS/ FOCAL CONCERNS

[Re-printed from April Newsletter]

Interim pastors are hired by the Session, not the full congregation, subject to approval by the Presbytery of Baltimore, which also hires a firm to vet the candidate. Most candidates will have specific interim training on how best to accomplish or act on the following matters:

1. Listen and respond to emotions around previous pastor's departure with pastoral care; help congregation's leadership address un-finished business or conflicts;
2. Renewal/re-affirmation of identity, mission, values; find consensus on past stages of congregational life and achievements whenever possible (This would include assessing impacts of covid period as well);
3. Recognize and support changes in leadership to respond to changes in church and community, those changes to be summarized in a mission study and statement for F&F and Baltimore Presbytery;
4. Reconnecting as needed with presbytery/ denomination, community, and ecumenical partners and projects;
5. Identifying goals and next pastor/staff skill sets needed, preparing for the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC--tho not staffing it), and staying till 1 month before new pastor starts.

Particular to First & Franklin:

6. Strategies on finances and buildings may call for project task force(s) in addition to the new committee structure, and/or a vision team w/interim pastor (IP) to draft the mission study.

For a fuller account of the interim process, its rules, and expectations, see the Presbytery of Baltimore website, section from the Committee on Ministry manual: <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/ministry-resources/>



Do you have a new address? Be sure to let the Church Office know so that we can stay in touch!

We are looking forward to receiving YOUR information and photo(s) for the new Directory so we can all stay CONNECTED!

Theology on Tap Online

Join us as we study Peter Enns' "How the Bible Actually Works*"

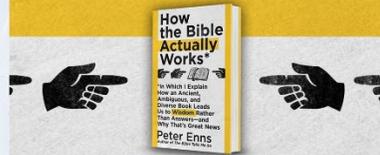
June 10 & June 24, 2021
7-9 p.m.

Zoom link on our website!

www.firstfranklin.org

FIRST & FRANKLIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Bible gives us
permission to strike out
in bold faith to discern
what it means to live
God's way for our time.



What Can You Hope For?

MUSIC, ART & FAITH RETREAT

For high schoolers and recent graduates

JULY 17 & 18, 2021

SATURDAY 7/17 • 8:30 AM - 7:30 PM

SUNDAY 7/18 • OPTIONAL MORNING - 12:00-5:00 PM

For many, COVID-19 quarantine was a time of loneliness, boredom, and sometimes loss and conflict. Now is a time to see new aspects of our community (& world) and restore our spirits.

WHAT: An opportunity to get resources of music and art for your spiritual journey. We will NOT be pushing a narrow faith perspective, but we will use beautiful music and inspired art to expand your spiritual vocabulary, consistent with an inclusive and ecumenical Christian vision of a more just and joyful Baltimore.

WHY: We want to help open horizons and provide access to neighborhood cultural institutions, including our church, its architecture and its musical traditions. We are called to love God and neighbor, and this is a way for us to be neighbors.

WHERE: Meet at the First & Franklin Presbyterian Church campus both days. We are at the corner of Park Ave and Madison St. (**210 W. Madison St.**) Be ready to walk to two museums and two music-related institutions in the local area. Simple meals will be provided both days and are included with the \$12 registration fee.

◆————◆

Our Experienced Leaders:

Dr. Jason Kissel, organist and choir director at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church/instructor at Baltimore School for the Arts;

Ms. Sarah Lloyd, history teacher and art historian at The Gilman School;

Ms. Deborah McCrimmon, educator/former Principal of Friends Academy (Locust Valley, NY);

Dr. Christian Iosso, ethicist/minister at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church.



Sign Up to Join Us!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Your **\$12 registration fee, paid in advance, covers all programming and meals.** Payment can be made by cash, check, or Paypal. **Call the church office at 410-728-5545 for details and to register.**

You may also Email:
information@firstfranklin.org

Or stop into the church office for a registration form or register online at:
www.firstfranklin.org

What About COVID-19? We will follow the latest public health guidelines for teaching and public gatherings. We encourage everyone attending to be vaccinated. Please bring your mask.

Note: We are a smoke-free campus. Parking is limited but street parking around the church is usually available.. Please contact us about questions regarding handicap accessibility.

First & Franklin Presbyterian Church
210 W. Madison St., Baltimore, MD 21201
410-728-5545 www.firstfranklin.org

