



# FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## COMMUNITY News

### JUNE 2022



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

#### JUNE CALENDAR

##### June 5

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-13. Acts 19: 1-10.

##### June 12

Diary of a Country Priest

Ezekiel 33: 10-16. Hebrews 10: 19-25.

Meeting with Prospective Members @ 12:00pm

##### June 18

Janzen Memorial Service @ 12:00pm

##### June 19

Lest Innocent Blood be Shed

Amos 5: 18-24. Matthew 5: 1-16.

Juneteenth Holiday

##### June 20

Juneteenth observed: office closed

##### June 25

Baltimore Pride Parade

##### June 26

Pride Sunday Worship Service

##### July 3

Loyalty Beyond Self-Interest

Jeremiah 14:19-22. Acts 19:23-41

#### Committee Meetings

6/08 | Membership @ 7:00pm

6/14 | Peacemaking @ 6:30pm

6/15 | Finance @ 5:30 pm

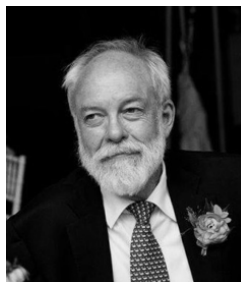
6/15 | Education @ 7:00 pm

6/16 | Building & Grounds @ 5:30pm

6/20 | Worship, Music, & Arts @ 5:30 pm

6/28 | Session @ 6:30 pm

#### “THIS IS A PLACE THAT WELCOMES ECCENTRICS.”



That phrase was stated by a long term elder. We had been talking about Gay Pride Sunday and the past struggles of welcoming a whole body of people the church used to deny existed. His point was that our church now welcomes people without trying to label them.

That’s a key part of the identity of this congregation, where we have come from. But where is this church going? The Mission Study Team is currently completing its narrative for Session’s and Presbytery’s approval, after which we can empanel the search committee for a new called pastor. The picture is both honest and hopeful. We have been getting our house in order, even if our budget is not balanced.

There are real strengths. One of them is people, you, who have learned to be self-reliant. You don’t necessarily need a packed house. You do need the freedom to be yourselves before God. You don’t want to be forced into anything—but you want community. We need groups and projects for relationships to grow. Could it be time to invite church folks you know, even just a little, for a meal? Including the eccentrics. Or to risk coming to church again?

We are all aware of the limits on First & Franklin’s resources. For decades, we offered the use of our buildings and resources to good causes, for nominal fees or none at all. Like many “mainline Protestants,” we would not dream of imposing our faith on our neighbors, or being “self-serving.” That sense of restraint may have minimized direct benefit or growth for the church.

The confidence of our forebears reflected their senses of achievement but also the culture of generosity I noted above. They joined things, pledged real money and gave real time, because they shared in the moral and social vision of the church. They believed in a Reformed Christian tradition that could be called to change not only the church, but *the world*. Hence they started projects and institutions to care for the city around them as an expression of their faith.

In the context of alarming factionalism and extremism in the body politic, F&F’s style seems a lot healthier. We continue to welcome seekers from across the spectrum—because we know God welcomes us all. Our God is a source of non-partisan joy and creativity, and our Savior is not a tribal idol but the embodiment love and justice.

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The prophets were often eccentrics, lifting up some very inconvenient truths. The beauty of Jesus' prophetic truth-telling is that it is centered in love, a center that attracts eccentrics. Perhaps that is why First & Franklin, finally, is not that eccentric. It is a place of Christian memory and hope, imagination and relationship. May that God at our center keep us steady amid the confusion and anxiety around us, and guide us in this transition time.

Let us widen that circle of love!

Rev. Chris Iosso, PhD, Interim Minister

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATES

Old Mother Hubbard went to her cupboard and found it was bare! The Food Pantry is not there, but supplies are getting low. Please consider buying a few extra items when you shop to help fill up the cupboard. Everything is needed: canned



fruits and vegetables, breakfast cereals, peanut butter and jelly, crackers and snacks, dried milk, pasta and sauce, rice and beans, and proteins such as canned tuna, chicken, and ham. Thank you for your continued support.

The Peacemaking Committee

## ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us before service every Sunday for adult education in Backus House or via zoom.

- June 5, Pentecost. Steve Hollaway will lead "Are We Afraid of the Holy Spirit?"
- June 12, Mission Study Team will present a draft of their study statement for feedback from Adult Forum (i.e. anyone interested)
- June 19, "Understanding White Christian Nationalism" (led by Steve)
- June 26, Pride Sunday, personal reflections from LGBTQ panel re church

Click: [ADULT EDUCATION](#)

Meeting ID: 831 0513 8968 | Passcode: 233825

## ATTN: FRIENDLY FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS!!



Represent First & Franklin during Baltimore's LGBTQ Pride Weekend festivities.

The church is handling T-shirts (more details later) and where possible

transportation from church to the event. Pride Parade - Saturday 6/25 from noon-3pm, Family Pride Festival 6/26 12-5 after our Pride Sunday worship service. ANYONE (Members, Friends, Family, whoever) is welcome to march with us for ten blocks from Homewood down to Station North. We will march beside Open and Affirming, Reconciling, More Light and other supportive houses of worship. The festival on Sunday afternoon is for 5 hours with food and entertainment, shopping and people watching. We need at least 10 people to staff our covered booth. Shifts are an hour to 90 minutes. You can volunteer for either event or both. It's gonna be a hoot!!

To sign up email [mikejohnson9747@gmail.com](mailto:mikejohnson9747@gmail.com) ASAP!

## COLUMBARIUM STEPS APPROVED BY SESSION

On May 14, 2022, the Session took the following action:

"In order to better serve the members and friends of the First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, the Session authorizes:

1. the Building & Grounds Committee to proceed immediately to commission a columbarium design for a portion of the courtyard of the church and to obtain appropriate permits and contractors to install suitable structures and plantings; and,
2. the formation of a Columbarium Committee to develop policies for the respectful and reverent placement of cremated remains in urns and in the garden(s), drawing on the columbarium policies of the Second and Catonsville Presbyterian Churches and having a draft policy reviewed by legal counsel; and
3. the inclusion of contingency arrangements in the policies to be developed to ensure continued care and access to the columbarium in the event of church merger or relocation, with timely communication with all designated relatives or friends, similar to the arrangements with other Presbyterian congregations in Baltimore Presbytery; and
4. the establishment of a Columbarium Fund to receive donations and fees for the maintenance and improvement of the Columbarium and related facilities (such as walkways, entrances, signage, and appropriate recognition of donors); and
5. appropriate notice of the availability of the Columbarium in church information on funerals, memorial services, wills and bequests, and descriptions of the grounds."

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# JUNE HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF F&F

written by Dave Pierson

## MORE LIGHT MINISTRY

6/1

On June 1, 1980, F&F became a nationally known leader in the "More Light" movement for inclusive ordination and eventually marriage of LGBTQ people in the PCUSA

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ABSORBS ALLISON LIBRARY

6/12

On June 12, 1856, Patrick Allison Established the first free library in the city. The Baltimore Library Company, with the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal and Archbishop Carroll

## SINGING SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN BALTIMORE

6/19

On June 19, 1785, Noah Webster establishes a singing school. While in Baltimore he shared his essays on english language lexiconography with Dr. Allison and the congregation

## HOSTED 1ST LGBTQ+ EVENT

6/30

On June 30, 1995 , the annual meeting of PLGC (Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns) took place. It was a three day event co-chaired by Jane Miller and Jim Schroll with strong input from a number of F&F members and from the national PLGC staff.

Since this action was taken and shared with several families who have stored the ashes of loved ones at the church, there has been more discussion of the location and style. Additional information has also been received from the First Presbyterian Church in Annapolis, which has also installed a columbarium relatively recently. A major goal is to provide an easily visitable place of remembrance for families and friends.

Please contact the interim pastor or church office if you would be willing to serve for 4 months on a task force on this project. Rev. Christian Iosso, for the Session.

### PEACEMAKING ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

In the worship service of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the congregation heard from Gloria Albrecht, Betty Schroll, Corena Bridges, and Laurel Oldach on the work of Peacemaking in the life of First & Franklin. Dr. Albrecht, initially a member of F&F, then an Associate Pastor here (and at Brown Memorial, sequentially), then professor of social ethics, gave a reflection on the church's moral and social engagement going back to the early 1980's. Betty described a range of activities, going back to the earliest conversations with the Janzens and Diane Newman. Corena described the hands-on work with Habitat For Humanity in the Sandtown neighborhood and the recent Food Pantry outreach. Laurel spoke to her learning to organize a march (with the purple ribbons) and to understand how the committee was also a community.

One theme connecting all was the presence of the Janzen's, Curtis and Dorothy, who were warmly remembered and missed. Another theme was that the committee—prior to Covid—would always do some sharing over a meal before turning to business. This made its support for the Food Pantry during covid so fitting.

The church office will have the texts of the presentations, and as usual the service is posted on the church's Facebook site. During the service, Chris also noted a written appreciation of the Food Pantry work and its donors by Randolph Veale, who was one of a number unable to be present. The leadership of Sabrina Schumann was also lifted up in the service.

True to form, then, there was a luncheon after church in the chapel, preceded by a wonderful coffeeshour cake provided by Judy Dadds, who also did much of the set up. A highlight of that meal was Gloria's donation of some of her stoles to First & Franklin to give to our partner Taguasco church in Cuba. This was very fitting as Gloria was ordained at First & Franklin, with the sermon preached by David Colman, a predecessor of hers' as Associate Pastor.



Another Associate Pastor committed to peacemaking, Roger Powers, has also been remembered.

One additional grace note was the coincidence of Laurel (and Warren Weber)'s wedding a week before, performed by Chris Iosso, and Laurel's parents sending warm greetings to Gloria, who had performed their wedding, some 30+ years ago.

### DONATE TO SISTER CHURCH IN CUBA

On June 21, David Sargent and Betty Schroll will travel to Taguasco, Cuba to represent our church along with representatives from First Presbyterian of NYC and Deland Presbyterian Church. The session of Taguasco has assembled a list of materials which are needed and difficult to purchase in Cuba. Please bring in donations by Sunday, June 19. When shopping, please remember we are limited to 100 pounds apiece including our own luggage. Monetary gifts will also be accepted to buy extra materials, to add onto the money collected for Taguasco during the Alternative Christmas Market for their mission projects, or to help pay for baggage fees (\$200),. Also, look for cards to sign during coffee hour which we will deliver. A handwritten letter and /or photos would be a lovely gesture sharing pictures or stories of yourself and/or our church's life here in Baltimore. Thank you for your loving, generous gifts to our brothers and sisters in Cuba.

#### Medications and Medical Needs

Antihistamines  
Anti-diarrhea medication  
Anti-nausea pills  
Fever reducers  
Pain relievers  
Aspirin 81 mg. 325 mg  
Ibuprofen  
Acetaminophen  
Antibiotic creme and pills  
Cough drops  
Antacids  
Multivitamins for adults, seniors  
Chewable or gummy vitamins for kids  
Calcium (600mg)  
Glucosamine and chondroitin capsules  
Omega 3, 6 tablets

#### Sewing Materials

Hand needles  
Sewing machine needles  
Thread and yarn

#### School Supplies

Pens and Pencils  
Water-based markers  
Arts and crafts supplies  
Story books in Spanish  
Construction Paper

#### Other

Coffee and tea  
Laundry detergent sheets

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with the latest church news and exciting pictures! Give our post a like and share it with your friends and family!

[Instagram](#): Firstfranklinpresbyterian

[Facebook](#): Firstfranklinbaltimore



## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY JANZEN

It is with deep sadness we share that Dorothy Janzen passed away peacefully with her son, Scott and daughter, Joy, by her side. She will be dearly missed by our entire church community, and we ask that you keep her family and friends in your prayers.

A memorial service celebrating the life of church member Dorothy Janzen will be held on **Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 12 noon** with a reception to follow.



### **Birthdays**

1 – Corena Bridges	18 – Michael Lucas
1 – LoisAnn Oler	19 – Becky Brown
5 – Obie Anaedozie	20 – George Meagher
6 – Haswell Franklin	20 – Jill Randles
8 – Betty Loafmann	27 – Steve Lapsley
8 – Laurel Martin	28 – John McLucas
12 – Jake Elfner	29 – Aloma Bouma
17 – Tom Scuderi	29 – Jim Morgan

### **Anniversaries**

2 – David & Gail Rice	18 – Jan Trammel Savin & Doug Savin
4 – Alison Halsey & Bill Hathaway	24 – Becca & Stephen Hollaway
11 – Connie & David Fischel	28 – Phil Adams and Gary Norris
15 – Alec MacGillis & Rachel Brash	

## SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS & IDEAS!



We would love to receive and share your news in the upcoming Newsletters. 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 July 8, 2022.**

## CALL FOR USHERS & FELLOWSHIP TREATS



We need **YOUR** help to fill our schedule with ushers and fellowship.

Please consider this donation of your time as part of your gift to your church. Please reach out to the Worship Committee or the Church Office to sign up! Sign-up Sheets are also available on Sunday during Fellowship Hour in Reid Chapel or in the Narthex before service.

## CONTRIBUTING TO FIRST & FRANKLIN

Your contributions are vital to the running of our day-to-day activities, including salaries for our wonderful staff, utilities, building maintenance, and more. In addition, your donations help fund the outreach and mission work of First & Franklin.

Currently, for the fiscal year 2022, we are trending behind where we were last year. Your help in staying up-to-date with your pledges and giving helps us in forecasting and planning our budget for the rest of the year. We will have a more detailed update on our current year budget as we start the second half of the year in July.

There are a couple of ways to contribute financially to First & Franklin:

1. Online - You can contribute online at [Paypal](#) or by visiting the [First & Franklin website](#). When you donate online, you can choose to make a one-time donation or to make a recurring, monthly donation. Please note that we are charged a processing fee for online donations and including an extra 3% to your donation will help us cover those fees. You can also find a QR code at the back of the weekly bulletin which links directly to our Paypal giving page.
2. Envelopes - We have numbered envelopes we can give to you, or you can use the generic envelopes in the pews to make donations. If you would like for us to keep track of your giving for tax purposes, please be sure your name/address/phone/email is on the envelope, especially if you are contributing cash. You can place these envelopes in the collection plate on Sunday mornings.

Your support in giving whatever you are able is greatly appreciated. Together, we each make a difference in the operation and work of First & Franklin and in helping to build a strong future for our church and community.

Alex Mendelsohn ~ Chair, First & Franklin Finance & Stewardship