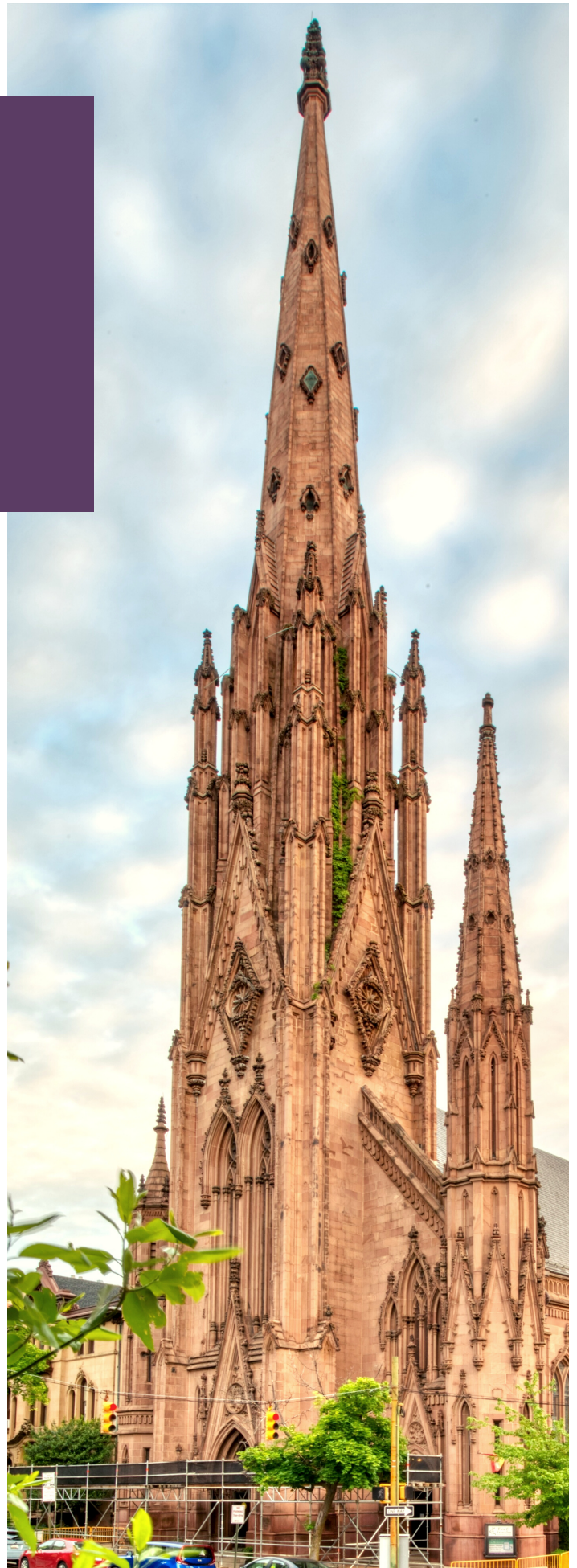


MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inside This Issue:

Lou Dudrow Memorial Service	2
Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited	
Multi-Age Sunday School Update	
Cuban Feast Fundraiser	
Ken and Brad Kolodner Quartet	
Laura Oldham Pottery Show	3
Food Pantry Seeks Volunteers	
New Office Hours	
Lent and Holy Week Schedule	
Marla Holt on the Sisseton Learning Camps	4
A Prayer by Rev. Patrick Allison	5
Upcoming Spire Series Events	
March Calendar	6



LOU DUDROW MEMORIAL SERVICE

We are saddened to announce the passing of former member and longtime friend of First & Franklin Lou Dudrow. Lou departed on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at the age of 98 years old. Please hold his wife of 43 years, Mara, and their whole extended family in your prayers. A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 10:00am at the Homewood Retirement Community Campus chapel. The address is 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick, MD 21702. Please RSVP to the church office at information@firstfranklin.org or (410) 728-5545 so that we can give Lou's family a rough headcount.

BOOK STUDY: *JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED*

From February 26-April 9, Adult Education will be reading and discussing Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. Thurman was a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr. at Boston University, and King carried a copy of *Jesus and the Disinherited* in his pocket during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In this season of Lent, we hope that this text will encourage us to confront systems of injustice so that we may begin to embody a new way - one that combats violence, uplifts the poor, and brings God to the "Godforsaken." You do not need to read the book to participate in the class, but those who are interested may purchase it on Amazon. It is also available at Baltimore City and County libraries.

MULTI-AGE SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Our youngest members of the church community are engaged as they separately learn about the creation story and Jesus as a young man. Right now, our fourth graders are journeying with Jesus as He is busy clearing the temple of wrongdoings. Come and learn with us in Backus House each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. All children from grades K through five are welcome to attend.

CUBAN FEAST FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for 12:00pm on Sunday, March 26th, 2023. You are invited to a Cuban feast! Fill your bellies with delicious Cuban food. Fill your ears with Cuban music and stories of our growing relationship with Taguasco Presbyterian Church. Fill your eyes with photos from past visits and learn more about our next trip to Cuba. Buy a raffle ticket for a basket full of goodies from Cuba. The proceeds will support Taguasco Church's Living Waters Project. RSVP for the Cuban Dinner Fundraiser by Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 by calling (410) 728-5545 or emailing the church office at information@firstfranklin.org.

THE KEN & BRAD KOLODNER QUARTET

The Spire Series at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church is proud to present The Ken & Brad Kolodner Quartet on March 19, 2023 at 2:30pm. The father-son team Ken & Brad Kolodner weave together a captivating soundscape on hammered dulcimer and clawhammer banjo, blurring the lines of Old-Time, Bluegrass and American Roots music, joined by Alex Lacquement (bass, banjo) and Rachel Eddy (fiddle, guitar, vocals, banjo). Ken and his music have been featured on NPR, The Thistle and the Shamrock, All Things Considered, the CBC, the Voice of America, and German National Radio. Learn more at <https://www.kenandbrad.com/>

LAURA OLDHAM POTTERY SHOW

First & Franklin member Laura Oldham is thrilled to invite you to the American Craft Made Show at the Baltimore Convention Center on March 3-5, 2023. She will be exhibiting her handmade, hand painted pottery along with more than 350 other artists from across the country. Discounted tickets are available using the code: BWICRAFT50. Hours of the Show: Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm, and Sunday 11am-5pm. Laura will be in Booth #450. Visit www.craftcouncil.org for more details.

FOOD PANTRY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers of the Food Pantry have found the experience of sharing food to have enriched our lives as much as we hope the food has enriched our neighbors' lives. The Pantry has become the face of a compassionate church to those who need a little help making ends meet. We hope the gratitude for this service, which is expressed many times each week, has been passed on to all of you who have supported this project. In February of 2023, the Food Pantry distributed a total of 224 bags of groceries!

Enlarging our pool of volunteers is a need that must be met. We can be creative in how we answer this need. Can you commit to being a substitute or becoming a volunteer once or twice a month? Could you help to occasionally shop for groceries or pick up fresh produce? Please contact the First & Franklin Office at (410) 728 5545 or information@firstfranklin.org for more information.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

First & Franklin's office hours will change starting March 6. The office will be open Monday through Thursday, 8:30am-2:30pm, and Sunday from 12:00pm-4:00pm. First & Franklin's office administrator Anna Pollitt will be reachable by phone Monday through Thursday from 8:30am-5:00pm, and Sunday from 12:00pm-4:00pm. The office will be closed Friday and Saturday.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 1-29 | 6:00pm | Wednesday Meditative Services | *with organ*

April 2 | 10:30am | Palm Sunday Service | *with choir and organ*

April 7 | 7:00pm | Good Friday Service of Tenebrae | *with readings and motets*

April 9 | Easter Service | Prelude at 10:10am, Service at 10:30am | *with brass, timpani, choir and organ*

MARLA HOLT ON THE SISSETON LEARNING CAMPS

Occasionally across the sky a dark angry storm rumbles from the west to the bright peaceful sunshine on the east, unaware of what is coming. When the clouds collide, you see all across the flat prairie that stretches for endless miles. It is one of many spiritual, difficult to share experiences that sent me to Sisseton, SD in the past years.

In 2018 and 2019, I teamed with others from Baltimore Presbyterian churches to travel to Sisseton, SD and volunteer with Native Americans from the Dakota Tribe at the Lake Traverse Reservation. We shared with the children, ages 5 to 12, for a full day of classes to learn various life skills, crafts, games, and other activities. One especially meaningful class was taught by a Native American leader for the children to learn about their Dakota culture and language; it is a beautiful language.

I was delighted when we arrived the first day in 2019, and many children remembered us from the prior year. I laughed when Aliala had saved a seat for me! She asked why I didn't wear my wooden necklace made of carved animals! She then proceeded to share with me everything she had learned about aquariums and all types of sharks. She is quite an extraordinary young girl, as are so many of the children who have so much to offer.

Each year, my class was a Storytelling class where my teammate read a story and I taught the kids an American Sign Language sign that focused on the value of the book; for example, "kindness" and "love". They also worked on a craft to coordinate with the story. The children are very sweet, a little shy when they first met someone, that "looked different with white skin". However, we were "adopted" quickly and I had much fun laughing with them, especially when I struggled to pronounce their names.

Before joining a team, one must be trained in Native American cultures and Procedures and Policies for the Protection of Minors. This week is an extraordinary experience, one where you can share much with the children and grow so much yourself spiritually and have an exciting adventure! Would you consider joining us this July? See what the Lord's calling for you is and you won't forget! Contact Becca Hollaway and me, Marla Holt for us to share with you. I can't wait to go with you!

Website: www.baltimoredakotalearningcamps.org

A PRAYER BY REV. PATRICK ALLISON

This is a prayer penned by our founder Rev. Patrick Allison in February 1800, weeks after his dear friend George Washington had died. Dr. Allison's words are not mere flattery, he speaks a new kind of patriotism and strangely one that feels very familiar to our congregation 223 years later:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, creator and upholder of the universe; preserver and governor of the world: thy presence fills all places, thy Providence embraces all nations and ages. Thou rulest in the kingdoms of men, and givest them to whomsoever thou pleasest. In exercising sovereign sway, thou preparest fit instruments to accomplish thy various designs of pulling down and building up. Thou impartest of thy spirit to the children of men, in such portions as are required by the destinies they are ordained to fulfill; counsel is thine and sound wisdom; thou hast understanding, thou art strength. We desire unfeignedly to bless thee for the illustrious character, whose memory has been this day honored among us. To thy goodness we owe the rare talents with which he was endowed, to thy guidance the eminent services he performed, to thy mercy the happiness and glory of his bright and useful life. In him we acknowledge the greatest & best of men among the dead or the living, who tho' dead yet liveth by what he has said, and speaketh by what he has done. Render his name precious to the people of this land till the end of time. Let the remembrance of his public and private virtues excite others to go and do likewise, according to their different abilities and opportunities. It has pleased thee to take him from us by a short and painful disease, advanced in days and full of honor.

WE are silent and adore, humbly hoping that he was not removed in displeasure against us, and that thou wilt not with him withdraw thy loving kindness from our peaceful and prosperous nation. With thee is the residue of the spirit, we implore a continuance of thy benevolent intentions, and a constant supply of suitable agents to execute these. We ask the same favors for other states and countries. Wherever or whenever any people virtuously contend for their just rights, may a leader be found to espouse their cause, like unto him whom thou didst graciously raise up for us in the hours of our need. Hasten the glorious period when violence shall be no more heard in any border, wasting or desolation in any land; when knowledge and virtue and liberty shall universally prevail, when the kingdom of this world shall become the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the only mediator thro' whom our supplications are humbly offered up to Thee.



UPCOMING SPIRE SERIES EVENTS

3/19 | Sun | The Ken & Brad Kolodner Quartet | 2:30pm

4/21 | Fri | Jessica Tong & Michael Sheppard | 7:30 pm

5/25 | Thu | Baltimore School For the Arts | 7:00 pm

6/4 | Sun | Prelude to Pride with Sara Davis Buechner | 3:00 pm

Tickets on sale at www.firstfranklin.org/the-arts/the-spire-series

MARCH 2023 CALENDAR

- 3/1 Wed 6:00pm Lenten Meditative Service
- 3/4 Sat 1:00-3:00pm Food Pantry
- 3/4 Sat 2:00pm Center Stage Trip: "Crowns"
- 3/5 Sun 9:00am Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited
- 3/5 Sun 9:00am Multi-age Sunday School
- 3/5 Sun 10:30am Guest Preacher: Dottie LaPenta
- 3/7 Tue 7:00pm Peacemaking Committee
- 3/8 Wed 6:00pm Lenten Meditative Service
- 3/8 Wed 7:00pm Membership Committee
- 3/11 Sat 1:00-3:00pm Food Pantry
- 3/12 Sun 9:00am Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited
- 3/12 Sun 9:00am No Multi-age Sunday School
- 3/12 Sun 10:30am Guest Preacher: Renee Mackey
- 3/15 Wed 6:00pm Lenten Meditative Service
- 3/16 Thu 6:30pm Building and Grounds Committee
- 3/16 Thu 7:00pm Deacons Meeting
- 3/18 Sat 1:00-3:00pm Food Pantry
- 3/19 Sun 9:00am Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited
- 3/19 Sun 9:00am Multi-age Sunday School
- 3/19 Sun 10:30am Guest Preacher: Steve Hollaway
- 3/19 Sun 10:30am Spire Series: Ken and Brad Kolodner
- 3/20 Mon 5:30pm Worship, Music, and Arts Committee
- 3/21 Tue 7:00pm Education Committee
- 3/22 Wed 6:00pm Lenten Meditative Service
- 3/25 Sat 1:00-3:00pm Food Pantry
- 3/26 Sun 9:00am Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited
- 3/26 Sun 9:00am Multi-age Sunday School
- 3/26 Sun 10:30am Guest Preacher: Janine Zabriskie
- 3/26 Sun 12:00pm Cuban Dinner Fundraiser
- 3/28 Tue 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 3/29 Wed 6:00pm AIDS Action Baltimore Town Hall
- 3/29 Wed 6:00pm Lenten Meditative Service