



FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY News
 MAY 2022



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

MAY CALENDAR

May 1
 Mayday & James
 James 1: 22-2:7. James 2: 14-20; 5: 1-6.

May 8
 Mothers' Day: Rev. Betty Loafmann

May 15
 Getting out of God's Way.
 Ezekiel 31: 1-12. Mark 4: 26-32.

May 22
 Peacemaking Past & Future: Reflections
 by members of the Peacemaking
 Committee and Dr. Gloria Albrecht.
 Lunch after service to follow

May 26, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.
 The Annual Margaret Armstrong Honors
 Recital - Baltimore School for the Arts

May 29
 Not a Memorial Church.
 Acts 17: 16-21. Acts 17: 22-28.

June 6
 Pentecost: Acts 2:1-13. Acts 19: 1-10.

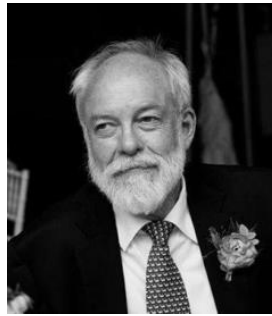
June 18 | 12:00 pm
 Dorothy Janzen Memorial Service

June 25
 Baltimore Pride Parade

June 26
 Pride Worship Service

Please RSVP to the office for lunch after
 service on May 22nd

“Peacemaking, Patriotism, and Pentecost”



Nothing like small topics for the church newsletter! We pray in every Sunday service for those who suffer within and beyond our community of faith. We know that we are all partly responsible for the brokenness in human relationships beyond our immediate families, even though it is a diffused and shared responsibility. Moral concerns are deeply entwined with our political and cultural views.

We Presbyterians and friends have historically been known for wanting to “scale up” our personal reformation into reformation of society, and sometimes this has been moralistic and judgmental. Jesus condemns condemnation (see Luke 6: 37-8 or Matthew 7: 1-2), but he is all about moral discernment and justice (Matthew 23:23).

When we take responsibility for things, we tend to “own” them, in terms of our attitudes. We want help, but help that agrees with us, that sees the problems and solutions our way. Especially when we have carried a responsibility for a long time, we know the endurance that is required. And sometimes, we know how little thanks we get. Volunteering together can be tricky business when people have different levels of personal investment in the work. Some people avoid community for that reason—it’s not “politics,” it is personalities and feelings. Committees are actually good, in many cases, for making decisions less personal and for limiting the dangers of stronger personalities dominating others.

Peacemaking starts with reading inter-personal situations. It is being gracious, giving others the benefit of the doubt, but not being either too defensive or a doormat. Being humble toward God can prompt us to insist on our dignity and our right to ask questions of those with power or authority. Sometimes communities and families are riddled with no-go zones, spheres of interest where that sense of ownership says, “my way or the highway!”

This power dynamic applies to the sense of entitlement that can be magnified in groups. Nations also say, “we are more deserving because we have suffered more,” and “they only understand the meaning of force.” And we usually have the default setting of trusting “our side.” We have difficulty hearing criticism of that which we love and share at least an imagined identity.

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Patriotism is not blind loyalty. In his book, *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis does not put patriotism at the level of the four primary kinds of love (*storge*, or affection; *philia*, or friendship; *eros*, or romantic love; *agape*, or self-giving love, sometimes translated charity, from *caritas*). Love of country draws on the power of the more primary loves and can inspire noble self-sacrifice, as we see in Ukraine and other struggles. Loyalty itself is a virtue, at least when it is clear-eyed and freely given.

In worship on May 22nd and in a lunch afterward, we will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the work of the Peacemaking Committee of First & Franklin (2 years late, due to covid). “Peacemaking” has a particular meaning with us, as it includes seeking to end wars and a range of social justice commitments—to end hunger and homelessness, oppose racism, nurture the environment, honor the range of sexual orientation, stop gun violence, build relationships with political opponents (as in the partnership with a church in Cuba)... In some congregations, this is all under “mission” or “social concerns,” but the committee at F&F held onto its name, wanting the dimension of advocacy and for some, a bedrock pacifism or nonviolence.

For perspective, the Presbyterian denomination adopted a ground-breaking policy, Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling, in 1980

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/peacemaking-the-believers-calling-1980/>). It has guided much good witness ever since, though it is not a pacifist position. We come close, but the Reformed tradition still follows Augustine in permitting a policing function, writ large, to resist the militarized violence that flows, or seeps, from human imperfection and “fallenness.”

What would a realm of peace look like, if peacemaking were truly to succeed? Pentecost. Acts 2 presents God’s Spirit flowing among people of all backgrounds to the extent that they can understand and speak other languages. It is an extraordinary burst of harmony and mutual understanding. That is not all Pentecost is—stay tuned for worship, June 6th. But if we are attentive to peacemaking throughout May, we will be in a good position to celebrate that next big holiday of the church at the beginning of June.

Grace and peace,

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

NEW MEMBERS OF THE F&F COMMUNITY



In April, Dave Pierson and Rachel Walsh officially became members of the church. While Dave and Rachel are new members, they are not new to the First & Franklin community. Over the past year both have been extremely involved on campus ranging from ushering, helping with historical

documents, creating surveys for mission study, singing in the choir, and just being a helping hand whenever the community is in need. We are so excited and honored to have you both as official members of our community!

CUBA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



On June 21, David Sargent and Betty Schroll will fly to Cuba to visit our sister church in Taguasco. Because we have not been able to visit

since June of 2019, our reunion will be extra special. There has been much suffering because of the pandemic and economic hardships, but our brothers and sisters have continued to worship online, as we have, and to serve their community. Their joy seems to be endless. We are in the process of learning what First and Franklin can share with them to help them continue their outreach. When this information is available, we will share the “shopping list” with you so we can all send our love to Taguasco in a tangible form.

LEIGH NEWMAN BOOK CELEBRATION



On April 29th 10 members of the church supported former member and daughter of Diane Newman, Leigh Newman in celebrating her new book, *Nobody Gets Out Alive*.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE “TABLE GUILD”

The Worship, Music, & Arts Committee of Session is recruiting volunteers to prepare the Sanctuary (and occasionally the Chapel) for worship services. Please consider prayerfully if this might be a way for you to support the beauty, order, and dignity of our worship at First & Franklin.

Regular weekly tasks could include:

- Placing linens, candles, and offering plates on the Communion Table
- Placing candles and purple ribbons on the smaller table
- Lighting candles on both tables before worship when possible
- Placing the liturgically appropriate hangings on the pulpit
- Placing flowers on the pulpit or Table, or on the wooden flower stands
- Placing a cross on or in front of the Table
- Checking that the morning’s Scripture readings are marked in the pulpit Bible.

On Communion Sundays (currently the first Sunday of each month, with occasional other dates as approved by Session), the Guild would:

Prepare the Communion elements of bread and juice in the dishes appropriate to the method of distribution (in-pew or intinction)

Provide the loaf of bread which is broken by the pastor during the Communion service.

[Note: Worship, Music, & Arts is considering the option of serving only gluten- and nut-free bread at Communion, and of having the bread baked by volunteers at home.]

To make this lay ministry effective and reverent, our volunteers will need to meet with our Sexton, George Meagher, to learn where the hangings, ribbons, linens, offering plates, and Communion silver are stored, and how to handle the dishes and prepare the elements hygienically. This work will have to be carried out before worship without interfering with George’s other duties on campus. Volunteers will also work closely with the pastor, understanding their work in support of the pastor’s teaching and leadership in worship. The church office will send reminders to volunteers a few days before the Sundays they will serve.

If you would like to join in this effort, please contact WM&A chair John McLucas (at JCMcL1532@aol.com) and Tiarra Rush (trush@firstfranklin.org). We will find a time when volunteers can meet with George and with Chris Iosso for orientation.

A NOTE ABOUT THE TRIP TO SISSETON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Dear Friends at First and Franklin,

It was my very great privilege and honor to accompany Becca and Steve Hollaway, Marla Holt and Jeremy Tibbels to the Lake Traverse Reservation in Sisseton, South Dakota. The purpose of our trip was one of discernment as representatives of your Peacemaking Committee. We spent time in talking with the Dakota Presbytery members who are a part of the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps partnership. We talked about the possibility of reinvigorating the Sisseton Learning Camp and having First and Franklin Presbyterian become the partner church to work with members of the Ascension, Long Hollow and Good Will churches. We met with Pastor Kirk Snaza from the Christian Outreach Center as a possible location for the camp. We discovered a place of great peace and welcome that seems like a perfect place for the Sisseton Learning Camp.



Our Dakota Presbytery friends spent time with us traveling around the Reservation and showing us the Dakota Presbytery churches. They treated us as honored guests at worship on Sunday and fed us amazing meals! Most of all, they shared their deep love of Jesus Christ and treated us as dear friends and shared their deep commitment to have a Sisseton Learning Camp in 2023 that will be a place of learning and friendship for their children. We all experienced the peace of the South Dakota hills and lakes and the acceptance of new friends. I saw a change in your First and Franklin representatives as they soaked in the peace of their surroundings and felt the love of their new Dakota Presbytery friends.

Peace and Blessings,
Chrystie Adams
BDLC Steering Committee

FOOD PANTRY REFLECTION



Since June of 2020 during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Food Pantry got its start at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, I was one of those volunteers who has been there from the very 1st day as my way of giving back to the Mt. Vernon community which has been my home for 35 years.

Each week members of the congregation along with members of the community has donated all types of perishable foods and dry goods, snacks, can goods, etc & the volunteers each Saturday afternoon bagged these items to give to the residents in the community for which we have regulars every week some from residents from the Westminster house nearby, and the surrounding neighborhoods in the area. Myself along with Corena Bridges & Betty Scholl are the original 3 still keeping it going today which was started by former member Sabrina Schumman & we had about 3 more volunteers joining us since 2021.

Yours truly has been volunteering since day 1 while being unemployed through no fault of my own due to the Pandemic started on March 16th of 2020 as given something back to the community which dates back to my high school days in the early 1980's, giving my time and talents to this outreach ministry for as much as possible since going to back to work in June of 2021.

The Neighbors were very nice to us every week and is appreciated that we are out in the streets every week handed out bags of groceries and some bags of produce items and sometimes some eggs, fresh meats, bread, danish goods and cakes all while still following Covid-19 procedures from the start in order to us and the community safe since this is so far from over as far as getting covid that is.

I have a feeling that this outreach ministry has been done before, but this is the first time since joining the church in 2009 or 13 years ago, and hope that this will continue for many more years to come7 continue to help to as many more people as possible with food insecurities

Written By Randolph P. Veale Jr. "Randy".

VOLUNTEER WITH THE F&F FOOD PANTRY

Members and Friends,

We are well into our second year serving our Mount Vernon neighbors. Every week Rev. Iosso enumerates the number of bags of food and produce distributed. These numbers show the need is as great as it ever was. We have a dedicated group of volunteers, but with summer approaching many may be traveling on vacation or may just need a break. This presents a great opportunity to contribute your talents to these efforts. The pantry is operated every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM (we usually arrive around 12:30 PM). You are welcome to volunteer every Saturday, biweekly or monthly. Perhaps you would prefer to be added to our substitute list to be called as needed (with advanced notice of course). If any of these options appeal to you please contact Corena Bridges (Corbrid@gmail.com or cell # (443) 418-7883) Last but certainly not least, thank you to all who have donated to the pantry. Your generous and continuous contributions are what sustains this ministry.

Heartfelt Thank You!!

About My Ukrainian Easter Eggs

by Becca Hollaway

I learned to make Ukrainian eggs right after getting married—almost 44 years ago! Steve was employed as a campus minister at the University of Alabama, so (Auburn graduate that I am) I moved to Tuscaloosa with him. The wife of a Russian language teacher taught a class on Ukrainian eggs. It was great! I then spent the next days and weeks blowing out eggs and decorating them.



Some of the designs are related to farming—chickens and other animals. With the coming of Christianity, symbols became doves, fish, and crosses. This helped the craft to be continued. Today, some Ukrainians spend all year decorating eggs to be blessed at Easter and given away through the year. I've continued this tradition and usually give them away. As Steve once said, "Eggs are the inexpensive part of this craft."

ADULT FORUM—CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MISSION STUDY

The Mission Study Task Force has been busy and will be producing its report, in draft form, for the Session and interested members. How to evaluate the relatively concise document on which our “Church Information Form” will be based, and which will influence the pastor’s job description? Every congregation has unique elements, and some characteristics remain steady over time, even as our context changes. How much is our church life affected by our current decisions and how much by our context and past?

One angle of vision comes from a large scale, international comparative study of congregations, including a growing proportion from outside North America and Europe. This study, or collection of studies since the late 1980’s, is summarized in a book called, *Natural Church Development*. They identify eight characteristics of healthy churches:

1. Empowering Leadership
2. Gift-Oriented Ministry
3. Passionate Spirituality
4. Functional Structures
5. Inspiring Worship
6. Holistic Small Groups
7. Need-Oriented Evangelism or Outreach
8. Loving Relationships

A summary of these has been sent to the “usual suspects” who come to the Adult Forum, but please email or call Church Office (Information@firstfranklin.org) if you would like a copy. You need not attend the Adult Forum to appreciate this resource.

Our discussion will begin with Steve Hollaway’s introduction on May 8, and then Chris Iosso will lead discussions on the 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

MISSION TRIP VISITORS FROM MISSOURI EN ROUTE TO PUERTO RICO



This wonderful group of visitors chose our church to worship in when flight delays stuck them at BWI. A copy of their wonderful reflection piece on their visit here and subsequent journey is available from the office.

RUMMAGE SALE GREAT SUCCESS!



It was a risk for Session to approve a rummage sale for two weeks after Easter, to be led by relative newcomers, when the last such sale, planned for 2012, had not taken place. Still, the enthusiasm of Bryce

St. Clair and Becca Hollaway was persuasive, as was the opportunity to benefit from the FlowerMart also occurring that weekend. Bryce gave an initial report in the May 1 worship service, thanking everyone involved.

With a great burst of volunteering by many—some doing rummage for the first time—a large amount of quality items found its way out the doors of the Reid Chapel and Allison House. Most of the stuff stored on the third floor of Backus House was cleared out. The Second Chance organization got the left-overs for re-sale. Funds are still coming in.

Beyond the funds raised for the Spire surface maintenance, the Rummage Sale was a time for making many new acquaintances for the church. A number of neighbors had never seen the courtyard or inside the Chapel, or even the sanctuary. And we had a lot of fun!



Becca Hollaway continues to coordinate the rehabilitation of more valuable furniture pieces. Some may be used temporarily in Allison House where most of the very-used furniture has been removed and cleaning is taking place. Our neighbor at 810 Park Avenue, where an Afro-Caribbean Art Museum is being developed, graciously allowed us to park a dumpster behind the building for disposal of much stuff.

6th ANNUAL BALTIMORE PIANO MARATHON A SUCCESS!



On Sunday, May 1, The Spire Series hosted six brilliant pianists in the 6th Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon. Emcees Kati Harrison and Mark Malinowski of WBJC 91.5 FM

provided engaging commentary throughout the afternoon. An enthusiastic audience thanked the performers with generous applause, cheers and even a few standing ovations. Here's what some guests are saying:

JOSÉ HERNANDEZ

"I really enjoyed the 6th Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon of The Spire Series at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church! The level of all the performers was exceptional; the program was not only beautiful, it built and created an emotional repertoire of music. The acoustics of the church were excellent, plus the cozy building resulted in a beautiful and pleasant evening. I am thankful for all the work you put together for this series. I was so proud to take my out of state visitors to this Baltimore event. I hope you continue to offer these events for all age groups. Brilliant."

STEVE ROACH

Singing enthusiast and raconteur Steve Roach said, "It was electrifying when Nick Luby and Susan Zhang, shared the bench and used their four hands to provide a jolt of energy to First and Franklin! The two trading seats several times, mid-performance of their tango was very impressive (not to mention entertaining)."

CONNIE FISCHER

The annual Piano Marathon is one of my favorite events in the Spire Series. The pianists are always so interesting and of course so very professional. I was unable to hear the beginning of the program this year but was able to enjoy Nick Luby and Susan Zhang as well as Matthew Palumbo. I particularly enjoyed the one piano four hand duets performed by Nick and Susan, especially the Libertango (it was truly a trip)! Matthew's Liszt was wonderfully played - Liszt can be such a work horse and Matthew didn't seem at all exhausted when he finished - he has such great technique! I encourage one and all to try to attend all or part of this climax of the series next year. It is truly the icing on the cake - - such a treat.

BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

May 26, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Margaret Armstrong Honors Recital featuring selected seniors from the Class of 2022.

Join our BSA neighbors and greater community in celebrating the talents and achievements of these graduating high school students.

Free admission.

PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE CELEBRATION 40th Anniversary + 2 | In Worship on May 22

LUNCHEON FOLLOWS WITH PRESENTATIONS

Back in 1980, several members began meeting and took the name Peacemaking Committee. There was a Mission Committee, and in time a Service Committee, and there have been many social justice and advocacy projects over the years—often coming from initiatives from "Peacemaking." At the same time—remember the Nuclear Freeze movement, the semi-covert Contra War against the Nicaraguan government about to begin, the Iranian hostage crisis... how could the church apply lessons from the Viet Nam war and help influence our society in a more constructive direction?

Dr. Gloria Albrecht, a former member and then Associate Pastor, and then an ethicist at the University of Detroit/Mercy, will be joining us in lifting up achievements in the areas of advocacy, education, conflict resolution, and hands-on service. This Committee has sometimes sparked controversy, as prophetic efforts often do, but the goodwill of members on all sides of issues has carried us through. What does this 42 year period say to our faith challenges today? How do we relate to the patterns in the Christian ethical witness of the larger Presbyterian and Christian communities?

We have asked a number of long-term members, not only Peacemaking Committee members, to help us understand how this witness has helped shape our church and its inclusive concern for human rights. This will also enrich our Mission Study, to be completed soon in order for us to begin the Pastor Nominating Committee work.

PLEASE email or call the Church office to register for the lunch in the chapel after worship. (There will also be coffee and refreshments for members and guests not staying for the lunch).

...thoughts about living on this planet

By Audrey Suhr "Minute for Mission" April 24, 2022



It's Earth Day weekend. When Chris asked me to say something about my love of nature, I was a bit overwhelmed – I've never thought about why the natural world is so vital to my life....

It feels a bit odd, that a nation should declare one day a year to honor the Earth – when people plant trees and clean up the watershed streams and shorelines. Like declaring a single day – Mothers' Day to tell your mom you love her, or Fathers' Day to hug your dad. But yes, it's helpful to be reminded.... to get outside and love Mother Earth. And in doing so, maybe we inspire others to join us. So certainly, Earth Day is good.

I grew up in a family that composted scraps and leaves and clippings; that recycled; that could - but didn't - buy lots of STUFF. I played outdoors in streams and woods, and enjoyed food from our garden. We knew the names of birds and trees and wildflowers. I was hard-wired to love the environment.

I realize that was a privilege: not everyone lives with a yard, near woods and fields. But there's a reason cities are preserving green space; why we're cutting squares out of sidewalks to put in trees, bushes and flowers (as we have at F&F), and why our local (and national) parks saw a 10-fold increase of hikers and picnickers during the peak stress-filled pandemic.

We humans are healthier when we spend time outdoors, listen to the springtime peepers and birdsong, look at the blooms and the trees changing seasons. Our species grew up in simpler times, with fewer creature comforts. Our roots are there. OUT-DOORS

Busy schedules, cars, screens, just keeping up.... have separated us from something we used to cherish. Spacious time --walking, sitting out on the porch watching the fireflies, listening to life happening around us.

This past year I read a wonderful book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She is a PhD

biologist at SUNY in Syracuse, and an elder in the Pottawatomie tribe of Native Americans.

She talks about *Language* - how words shape how we think about life, things, our culture, and thus, what we value. As Westerners, as scientists and scholars, *many* more words are nouns than verbs. Most things are objects. 'It's – and an 'it'...is disposable. In Native American languages are the reverse. The world is described in animate, action terms. There is no pronoun "it."

For example, we describe a tree objectively– *its* height, girth, the shape of *its* branching, *its* name, its range. etc....

They would describe trees differently. For example, "come sit with me under the shade of this maple tree. She has a story. She's been growing here since before our grandfather's grandfather was born. These trees and saplings around us, these are her children. They communicate with each other. She sends nourishment down through her sap into her roots and the fungus mycelium transmit it to the roots of her neighbors; they help each other and give back to her in time of need. We can listen to her sap pulsing beneath her bark. When a blight is attacking her, pheromones are sent into the wind, so the other trees can rally their own protective measures.

In this Maple Nation, she's not an "it," not a commodity or decoration for our property. She is family, she lives in community, we treat her differently, with care and respect.

In science we teach to learn *about* nature. The indigenous heart asks what can we learn *from* nature. Both, together, are much closer to truth!

Indigenous people talk about the 'honorable harvest.' Asking permission to harvest. Taking only what we need, leaving enough for the animals. Letting some mature seeds to drop in the ground so that nature can rebuild and sustain its future. Harvesting with gratitude. Giving gifts back to the soil. What can we learn here?

Have you heard about "Forest Bathing?" It's "hot" right now.... It obviously is not about taking a bath in the forest. It means taking time to wander into the forest, slowing down to breathe deeply, smelling the pine needles, hearing the animals talking with each other, looking into the faces of the ephemerals blooming, sitting still to just *be* in the spaciousness of your own "self" in nature's pulsing place and moment.

Solid science shows: forest bathing lowers blood pressure, calms stress, aids digestion, sharpens our mental capacity, changes our mood.

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This Planet Earth knows how to exist in balance. We need to *let* it do that!

We need to join the Greta Thunbergs, pleading for all of us to adjust our ways. We need to insist that global leaders enforce policies to limit abuse of resources before future generations face fiercer disruptions.

There's no doubt the Earth will survive, but there's a question about whether humans will. There is NO question that life as we know it, is certainly threatened by our taking no action.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts saw for the first time to human eyes, an "Earth-rise." The blue and green of the breathtaking, beautiful Earth Home, set against the cold and black of the vast universe. That "blue marble photo" became known throughout the world.

We can see our Earth, our better-called Water Planet - pulsing under the miracle of a protective blanket of atmosphere, protecting life from radiation, moderating the heat and cold, re-cycling every bit of water, with plants and animals exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide. How did that synergy ever get started?!

May each of us cherish this pulsing blue and green planet spinning in the dark cold universe. GOD of Creation did good here.

After church – please take a look at this little blooming branch of redbud. When you slow down and look closely, the blossoms looking exactly like perfect little hummingbirds.

Miracle of miracles!One more!

[Among other things, Audrey directed the volunteer services and staff development at the National Aquarium here in Baltimore. She has only been a member of the church for 57 years.]

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 early yesterday morning 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**. A reception will follow in Reid Memorial Chapel.

Madison Ave Presbyterian Church 180th Anniversary By Randolph Veale

This year Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary. This congregation was a closely linked daughter church of the First Presbyterian Church. It started out as a Mission School in 1842, then around 1850, First Church purchased a building for them located literally around the corner at 104 West Madison Street (hence they were formerly the Madison Street PC). Now the site is known as The Revels Condominiums, named after one of the first ministers of that church, Hiram Revels, who went on to become a US Senator during Reconstruction.



The Rev. R.C Galbraith was the first installed minister of the church in 1850. Its building remained on the site until 1927 when they moved to the current building at 2110 Madison Avenue, to be nearer to its membership. Taking into account the changed road name, they are still up the street from what is now First & Franklin. The current minister is the Rev. Phyllis Felton.

[Randolph Veale wrote a longer story about the Madison Ave Presbyterian Church for First and Franklin's 250th in 2009-10. That story is available from the church office.]

POLICIES FROM SESSION

Dear Members and Friends of First & Franklin,

To improve transparency and provide better guidance to committees, the Session has adopted the new policies and procedures. An excerpt of them are included below.

Please reach out to myself or another member of Session if you have any questions.

Actions Requiring Session Approval

- Approval of:
 - Weddings
 - Baptisms
 - Membership
 - Removal of individuals from church rolls
 - Communion
 - Funerals, both member and non-member
 - Budget
 - Any contracts or agreements, including personnel
- Addition/removal of signers to bank and investment accounts
- New programs/initiatives, including dates of significant events.
- Large expenditures (>\$500), even if even amount can be covered by current budget
- Any capital or building expenses beyond \$1,500
- Any fundraising activities
- Anything that would commit First & Franklin to any outside partner or the formation of a new partnership
- Formation of new committees
- Election of Treasurer
- Software or other purchases that would affect operational aspects of the church
- Any purchases that may have cross function purposes with other committees or programs
- Educational materials, in conjunction with education committee

Roles of Committees

- Chaired or Co-chaired by current Ruling Elder; A non-Ruling Elder can solo chair a committee with Session approval
- Formation of new committees require Session approval
 - Committee working groups or subcommittees do not require Session approval

- Committee budgets approved by Session as part of overall operating budget
 - Committees should submit annual breakdown of expected spending as part of budget development process
 - Any expenses beyond what is included in operating budget must be approved by Session
- Committees should submit regular reports, at minimum quarterly, to Session
- Committee responsibilities are determined by the Session with input from committee
- Any recommendations from committees require action from Session prior to implementation
- Committees can develop new programs and initiatives but Session approval is needed prior to implementation

Committee Membership

Members of the Congregation

Friends of the Congregation are eligible to serve on committees

Staff members serve as ex officio members and do not have a vote on the committee

Responsibilities of Committee Chairs

- Hold regular committee meetings and ensure meetings are on church calendar
- Ensure meeting minutes are taken and regularly sent to the church office
- Follow current procedures set by church office for use of space
- Maintain current list of committee members
- Submit regular reports to Session of committee activities
- Session may ask committees for additional information or deny decisions for any motions from committees for further discernment
- It is the responsibility of Ruling Elder sitting on committee to report back on actions of the Session
- A representative of a committee may be invited to present a motion or report to the Session if no Ruling Elder is currently on the committee

Respectfully submitted,
Allie Pyan, Clerk of Session



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4 – Deborah McCrimmon | 17 – Denise Brandon |
| 7 – Christine Wallace | 19 – Laura Oldham |
| 8 – David Dadds | 20 – Sam Quigg |
| 10 – John Kyle | 20 – Mary Washington |
| 11 – Lou Dudrow | 21 – Jim Harvey |
| 12 – Judy Dadds | 21 – Sandra Smith |
| 12 – Ron Pate | 22 – Mary Anagnost |
| 14 – Diane Hodges | 24 – Dottie LaPenta |
| 14 – Frank McClelland | 25 – Susan Haugh |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6 – Kara & Lee Schenk | 12 – Jim Harvey & John Johnston |
| 7 – Becky Brown & Tom Scuderi | 31 – Laura Oldham & Beth Seeley |

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 June Newsletter by Monday, May 23rd, 2022

CALLING ALL ART LOVERS!!!



Calling all art lovers! One of our members, Laura Oldham, will be featured as one of the Emerging Artists with her handmade, handpainted pottery. Support and shop from more than 300 artists and take a weekend to celebrate all things handmade. American Craft Made / Baltimore

will take place in person May 20–22, 2022, at the Baltimore Convention Center. Covid requirements include masking and current vaccinations. Tickets are FREE this year but require advance reservations. [American Craft Made / Baltimore | American Craft Council](#)

CALL FOR USHERS, LITURGISTS, & FELLOWSHIP



We need **YOUR** help to fill our schedule with ushers, liturgists, 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.

CONGRATULATIONS LAUREL AND WARREN



Laurel Oldach and Warren Webber will be married on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Camp Puh'Tok, a summer camp in the woods near Monkton, Maryland. Rev. Chris Iosso will be performing the ceremony, and John McLucas will be singing. They will reside in their new home in Wheaton, Maryland.