

FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

WORSHIP CALENDAR

OCT. 2 | World Church & World House
II Kings 17: 29-36, 41. Luke 16: 16-17.

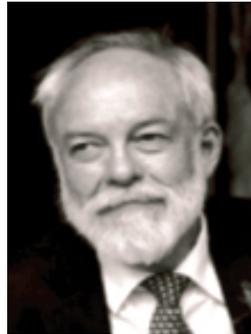
OCT. 9 | Marriage and Covenant
Romans 13: 8-14. I Corinthians 7: 1-5,
8-9, 12-16.

OCT. 16 | Habit and Character
Exodus 20: 1-17. I John 4: 7-21.

OCT. 23 | DAVID HARRIS Preaching

OCT. 30 | Reformation, Haunting, and
Re-enchantment. I Samuel 4: 12-13,
17-22. John 11: 32-44, 12: 9-11.

NOV. 6 | Politics and Circuses
Judges 9: 7-20. Romans 13: 1-7.



THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS (OCTOBER 9, FOR US)

How un-Presbyterian you may think, to have a ceremony to bless animals, but you would be wrong. Presbyterians in Scotland, for example, have always blessed their animals, especially dogs needed for work. Based on our ecclesiology, however, we have not needed a priest or minister to bless them, nor a formal public event.

Sometimes the kind attention or admiration of strangers paid to a dog on a walk is a kind of blessing. But Presbyterians can learn: sometimes a public blessing with a time-honored prayer is a good thing.

Animals are blessed by stories and anecdotes about them, and a classic is the story of Greyfriars Bobby. Greyfriars Bobby was a Skye Terrier or Dandie Dimont Terrier who spent 14 years at the grave of his master. Upon the dog's own death, on January 14, 1872, at age 16, he was buried in the graveyard not far away. This is a story of great faithfulness and attachment. A statue stands near the church in Edinburgh's Old Town and tourists often rub Bobby's nose.

The key to this story is that the grounds keeper took care of Bobby, building him a doghouse and likely enjoying his company, as had his beloved master. Bobby's owner had been a night watchman, and perhaps the habit of watching over things had become quite engrained. (Greyfriars Kirk dates to 1620 and was built on a site once used by grey-robed Franciscan brothers and priests—a kind of connection to St. Francis, a nature mystic often associated with animal blessings as well as selfless care of humans).

Animals may not understand the particulars of being blessed outside in a church setting by a person in a robe and stole. They are far more conscious than boats or bicycles or other vehicles or tools which are blessed because humans depend upon them. Love itself has been called, "appropriate dependence," and it is very appropriate to mark our gratitude and put our loves in the larger framework of God's purposes.

We bless animals because they are beloved parts of many people's lives. Our ceremony of blessing is focused on the individual human and the animal, most often a pet. We speak of blessing animals rather than blessing pets because every animal points to our larger dependence on other species and nature in general. To bless our pets is part of acknowledging God's good creation and our responsibilities of care for the natural world. We animals have to take care of each other. So that's what we're demonstrating on October 9.

See you at worship,

Rev. Chris Iosso, Interim Minister

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 9, 2022 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us in the Courtyard - Rain or Shine
ALL pets must be on a leash or contained and controlled by the owner.



First & Franklin Presbyterian Church
210 W. Madison St. Baltimore, MD 21201



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We all know that animals can be a blessing in our lives - and it's only right to bless them too, and give thanks for them.

We launched a new tradition in October, 2021, honoring Francis of Assisi whose feast day is October 4 and who showed such tender affection for all God's creatures. Becca Hollaway painted a beautiful arch which will serve again this year.

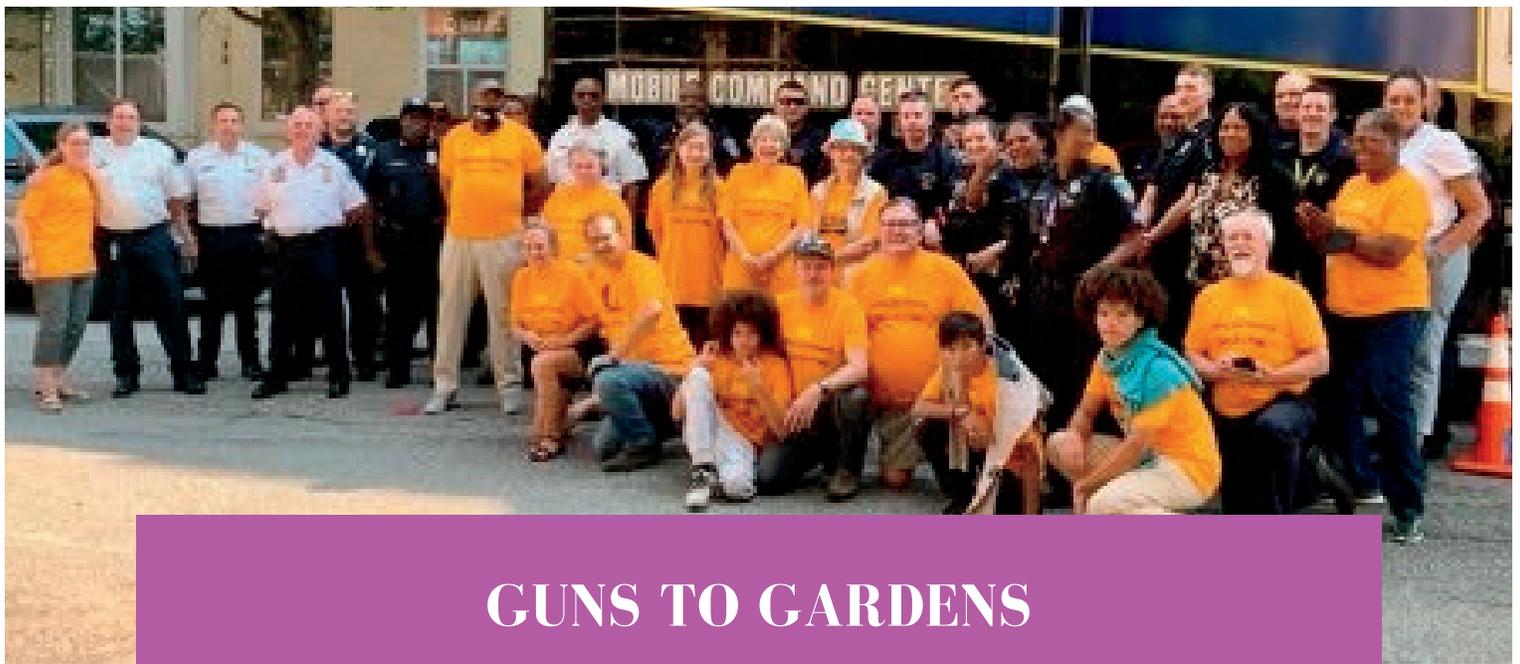
There was a good turn-out of members, friends, and neighbors. All of last year's pets were dogs and cats, but any animal who brings joy to human companions is welcome.

Bring your animal friends to the courtyard for a prayer and a blessing. Spread the word among your neighbors, family, and friends! And whether or not you have an animal in your own life, please consider coming to help greet and welcome our visitors. Stuffed animals welcome, too!

BRING A CHILD TO CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

by Deborah McCrimmon, Director of Christian Arts & Education

We will have our first Bring a Child To Church School Sunday on October 16, 2022, Each Sunday I teach a small group of devoted and smart youngsters in a Multiage Class. Our class would love to have more students join us. On several third Sundays this school year, we are asking our members and friends to bring a young person to our little class for a visit or for the entire year. We have fun and learn about the Lord. We also do connected art lessons that go along with scripture. Please consider bringing a neighbor, a grandchild, a friend, etc. on the designated BACTCS Sundays.

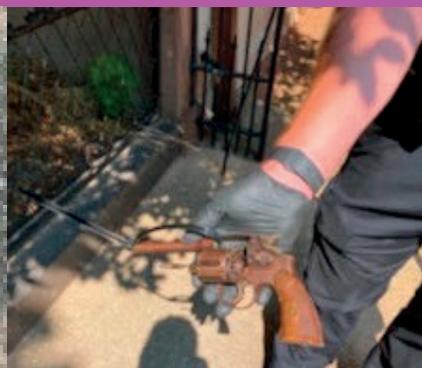


GUNS TO GARDENS

Thank you to everyone who played a part in planning and supporting First and Franklin's first Guns 2 Gardens Event. We are happy to announce that 19 guns were donated on Saturday, September 17: 11 hand guns, 3 rifles, 4 semi-automatic weapons, and 1 assault rifle. The gun owners who donated their guns were happy to have a safe manner in which to dispose of their guns. The show of support from so many of you and from other churches encourages us to continue this mission. There will be many questions to ask before our next event, including how we partner with the police. Two days before the event they told us we were not allowed to chop up the guns and we were not allowed to keep the gun parts to be turned into garden tools. This was due mainly to the consent degree the Baltimore Police are under. Not being able to complete one of the important components of our mission was disappointing but the main goal of getting guns out of peoples' homes was accomplished. We also felt that good connections were made with the police department for discussing future events.

Because of your generosity and that of St. Ignatius Church, we were able to give \$2,470 in gift cards and we have close to \$1500 left for the next Guns 2 Gardens event.

In gratitude,
the Guns 2 Gardens Committee



GUNS 2 GARDENS (NOT REALLY)

STEPHEN HOLLAWAY

Neighbors bringing guns to be guillotined
at our chop saw altar
in the church's courtyard.
That was our peacemaker dream.
We planned for months:
cut-up arms would be hammered
by blacksmiths into garden tools,
swords into ploughshares per prophecy.

Three days before the offering
Baltimore police said, "We alone
are the priests of guns.
We alone can touch them.
They will be disappeared by fire.
No metal can come from them.
Peace is a church thing,
but guns are a state thing."

Twenty-seven cops showed up
to watch a dozen orange-shirted
church folk who chatted up gun donors
and gave out gift cards.

We shook our heads
at the active shooter-like overkill:
the street closed,
a huge RV command center,
eight marked cars and black SUVs,
every officer in uniform.

Nevertheless, the brave came through
with 19 guns, each with a story:

"Grandpa inherited this flintlock
changed to hammer-firing."

"Dad thought he needed a nine
millimeter Glock
because the neighborhood got bad,
but then we moved."

"My daughter's friend asked
to park her car while she went
to Europe. She never returned.
In her trunk we found
a long gun and a handgun."

"My nephew, 24, got himself
an assault rifle. My sister
asked me to get it out.
He thinks it was stolen.
I'm keeping the gift cards,
he owes me."

Firearms came in garbage bags
with muzzles sticking out.
Some came in luggage-like cases
custom made for butt and barrel.
One donor had a handgun lying
on the passenger seat
like he was ready to shoot.
The quick hand of the law scooped it up.

They scooped up all of them, actually,
going behind the churchyard gate
to insert a zip tie in front of the hammer
then carry the swaddled gun
out the gate into the mobile HQ.

At the end of four hours, we cut
not guns but pizza with police
as if they were our friends.
Who knows where the guns wound up.
We're getting garden tools from Walmart.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 2022-23 SPIRE SERIES SEASON

BACH BY CANDLELIGHT WADE DAVIS, BAROQUE CELLIST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022 - 7:30P

Baltimore-based cellist, Wade Davis is in high demand as a solo performer and chamber music collaborator. He regularly performs with the Washington Bach Consort and the Folger Consort. Wade is also featured in popular music concerts with Sofar Sounds Baltimore the New York-based band Reserved for Rondee and Baltimore-based band Outcalls.

CANDLELIGHT CHORAL CONCERT | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 - 4:00P THE FIRST & FRANKLIN SANCTUARY CHOIR | JASON KISSEL, CONDUCTOR

The First & Franklin choir and soloists are joined by harpist Jacqueline Pollauf and guest instrumentalists in this annual concert of choral music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

THE KEN & BRAD KOLODNER QUARTET MARCH 19, 2023 - 2:30P

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.

JESSICA TONG, VIOLINIST & MICHAEL SHEPPARD, PIANIST FRIDAY APRIL 21, 2023 - 7:30P

Tong and Sheppard share a rare, singular vision in their approach to music-making, and have presented adventurous programs that integrate both well-loved and lesser-known masterpieces for violin and piano. The program features Schubert's Violin Sonatina no. 1 in D Major, Poulenc's Violin Sonata, and Lili Boulanger's Nocturne et Cortège for violin and piano.

BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS ARMSTRONG HONORS RECITAL THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 - 7:00P

Featuring selected students of the Class of 2023, this recital is named for one of Baltimore's great educators and BSA founder, Margaret Armstrong.

PRELUDE TO PRIDE CONCERT SARAH DAVIS BUECHNER, PIANIST JUNE 4, 2023 - 3:00P

"The breadth of Ms. Buechner's artistry, spanning thundering fortissimos and chiseled passagework, as well as lyrical moments colored by a poetic sensitivity that was tempered by wit and judicious restraint."



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Betty Schroll
- 5 - Tiarra Rush
- 7 - Susan Handy
- 9 - Sarah Lloyd
- 12 - Gary Norris
- 14 - Anjal Amin
- 15 - Rachel Eisler
- 20 - John MacGillis
- 26 - Mary McLanahan
- 31 - Marla Holt

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Corena & Bill Bridges
- 5 - Jill Randles & Linda Blankenship
- 27 - Martha & Bob Armenti



Come experience a beautiful space and reflective organ music, followed by refreshments and time for connecting with neighbors and friends. The space for reverie is the Gothic sanctuary of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, partly lit by candles. Organist Jason Kissel will play for approximately 25 minutes with little speaking: this is not a worship service, but evening time for exploring inner worlds. For those who wish to stay afterward, an open chapel offers space for friendly conversation.

First & Franklin is an inclusive church: all are welcome. Dates (Third Wednesdays) are October 19th, November 16th, December 21st, and January 18th.

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Full program details, Spire Series season subscriptions, and single tickets will be available at <https://www.firstfranklin.org/the-arts/the-spire-series/>.

WELCOME NEW SANCTUARY CHOIR MEMBERS



JACOB PLEISTAD

Jacob Pleistad is a graduate student at the Peabody Conservatory, having completed his undergraduate degree at Western Carolina University. Jacob served as bass section leader at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, NC from 2015-2019 and then at Christ Episcopal Church (Charlotte) from 2019-2022. For two summers he also sang with the Lake Junaluska Singers, a semi professional resident choir at the Lake Junaluska Christian conference/retreat center.

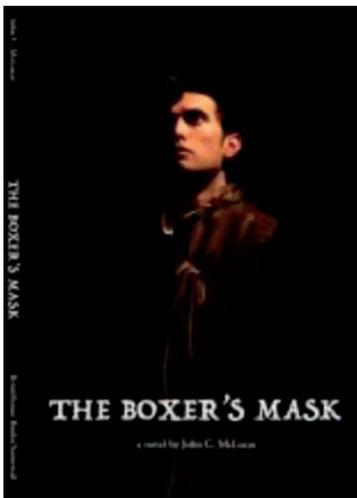
KIRK MCAULIFFE

Kirk McAuliffe teaches middle school music at The Severn School in Severna Park, MD. Kirk earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Susquehanna University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. Kirk and his wife recently welcomed a new daughter to the world - baby Cora.



F&F OCTOBER HISTORICAL TIMELINE

DATE	HISTORICAL EVENT
10/2/1859	The dedication of the new Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church took place.
10/4/1855	On World Architecture Day, Nathan Gibson Starkweather, Architect of First Presbyterian designed the Sanctuary and Backus House with a modern lighting system.
10/7/1824	Edward Johnson, the third Mayor of Baltimore helped form BG & E. His home is still standing at 835 East Lombard Street
10/14/1779	Samuel and Robert Purvience drove the price of salt down to make it more available for preserving food so that the population of Baltimore wouldn't starve.
10/16/1815	On National Sunday School Teacher Day, James McHenry introduces Sunday school to First Presbyterian Church. The playground outside of Hodge House was later built and named after him.
10/16/1888	First Presbyterian Church received a permit to build a "two-story brick building....to be used for Sunday-school purposes."
10/17/1957	The exterior renovations of the Sanctuary & Spire were completed.
10/19/1820	William Nevis was elected pastor of First Presbyterian Church and later married the first cousin of Francis Scott Key.
10/24/1860	On National Chair Day, the chancel furniture was purchased from Robert Renwick & Sons, located on 92 N. Howard St.



NEW NOVEL BY JOHN MCLUCAS

John McClucas' new novel, *The Boxer's Mask*, has just been published by BrickHouse Books. It is set in modern Rome, a city John knows well and deeply loves. There will be a signing event at the Ivy Bookshop at 1 pm on Saturday, November 5. Details below. Please come if you can!

[Event Details](#) | The Ivy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209

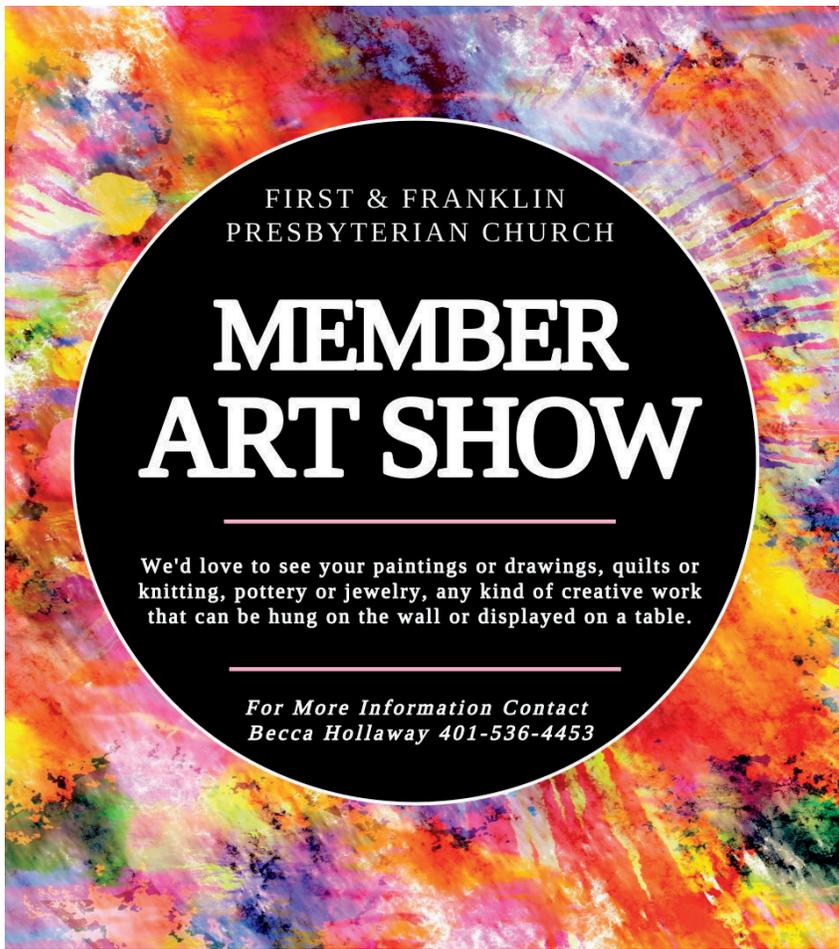


DOGAS DYSTROPHY DESTROYERS WALK

Nick Dogas, a long time choir member and children's choir director at F&F was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy in 2018. In 2018 and 2019 The Dogas Dystrophy Destroyers were the top fundraisers in Maryland. This year, Nick chose to support his specific type of Muscular Dystrophy - Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy which is a genetic disorder that leads to the weakening of skeletal muscles. It affects an estimated 1 in 8,000 individuals. It affects everyone differently, but over 70 percent of patients experience debilitating pain and fatigue.

Seven members and friends of F&F participated in the walk and many more donated to the cause! The money raised by participating in this Walk & Roll will support programs and fund research that will directly impact patients and their families living with FSH Muscular Dystrophy (FSHD). There is no effective treatment or cure—but there is hope! Thank you to everyone who participated and look for information about next year's walk and fundraiser! Thank you Audrey Suhr for these great pictures:





MEMBER ART SHOW

Attention all artists, crafters, and creatives of all kinds! Have you been making things during the pandemic? Perhaps you took up a new hobby or revived an old one. The Membership Committee invites you to share your work in a Member Art Show (church friends welcome) in Reid Chapel from late September to late November.

We'd love to see your paintings or drawings, quilts or knitting, pottery or jewelry, any kind of creative work that can be hung on the wall or displayed on a table. This is not part of the Art under the Spire program, but we do ask that you notify the church office or Becca if you are offering any art for sale. If you have any questions, call Becca Hollaway 401-536-4453.

DOORS OPEN RECAP

First & Franklin hosted more than 70 visitors Saturday October 1st for the Annual Doors Open Baltimore event. This year we added Backus House and Hodge House to the tour. Rene, Mike, John, Becca, Chris and Dave got the pleasure of showing the campus to a variety of attendees from serious students of architecture and engineering to the "I walk by every day, but have never been inside." Two tickets to the next Spires Series concert were raffled

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Peace and Global Witness Special Offering is divided between the National, Presbyteries, and local congregations. First and Franklin will receive 25% of the contributions received. This year, the Peacemaking Committee will allocate this 25% to the Guns 2 Gardens Project.

WELCOME BABY CORA!

CONGRATULATIONS to First & Franklin staff chorister Kirk McAuliffe, and his wife, Christine, on the birth of their daughter.

Cora Mary McAuliffe
born July 11, 2022 at 12:27am
8 pounds 3 ounces

**FOLLOW, LIKE & SHARE OUR PAGES ON
INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK!!**



**SHARE GOOD
NEWS & IDEAS!!!**

We would love to receive and share your news in the upcoming Newsletters. What would you like to see? 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 November Newsletter by October 21, 2022.



**DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE OR
SPECIFY YOUR PREFERRED
CONTACT METHOD?**

Please call or email the church office if your contact information or address has changed. We would also love for you to tell us your preferred method of outreach. Do you prefer email or mailed letter? Would you like a call or an email? Let us know!