



FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY News
 SEPTEMBER 2021



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

WORSHIP CALENDAR

September 5: ***“The Social Creed”***
 Isaiah 65: 17-25. John 10: 9-17
 Liturgist: Ruth Paradise
 Ushers: Corena & Bill Bridges

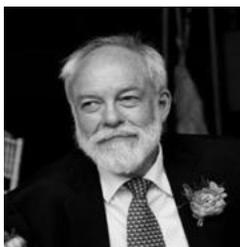
September 12: ***“Confessions & Reconciliation”*** Isaiah 11: 1-9.
 II Corinthians 5: 16-21. C-67 9.06, 07.
 Liturgist: Audrey Suhr
 Ushers: Nusrat David & Paula Crews
 Adult Forum and Children’s Programs
 start from 9:15-10:15
Outdoor Picnic after church to start church programs

September 19: ***“Does the Bible Have a Plot?”*** Jeremiah 36: 20-28.
 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-4. C-67 9.27-29.
Inquirers Lunch after worship
 Liturgist: Kate Rice
 Ushers: Judy & David Dadds

September 26: ***Who is the Church?***
 Deuteronomy 10: 12-22.
 I Corinthians 12: 12-31 C-67 9.36-38
 Liturgist: John McLucas

October 3: ***“Peace & World Communion Sunday”***
 Isaiah 3: 16-20
 Ephesians 2: 11-21 C-67 9.45
Peacemaking Special Offering Received

C-67 stands for the Confession of 1967, one of the theological “crown jewels” of our ever-reforming tradition. It is 9th confession in The Book of Confessions. (hence the 9, followed by the paragraph number). Excerpts will help deepen the sermon series through the Fall. The sermons are meant to prepare the church for its mission study.



TIME TO MOURN

After Al-Qaeda drove airplanes into the Twin Towers 20 years ago, US foreign policy was driven into Afghanistan and Iraq. Whatever you think of the wisdom, morality and management of those wars, it is very sad to think about the immense loss of life and resources revealed in the Afghanistan end-game. Many of us hoped that at least some good for women and girls might come, despite the losses. How little did we know about those cultures and the role religion plays in resistance to foreign soldiers? How much credibility did our country squander? It seems almost incredible to think of other nations seeing us as a role model.

A minister naturally asks, should we have a public worship service to pray for that country and for our veterans and the families of those killed? Would we not also be mourning that lost image of our country, virtuous and powerful--exceptional even--and effective in the use of hard and soft power? Even in grieving imperial overreach, could we lift up a vision of international peace with human rights? Does our country still have a mission to help others overseas, even if that sense of mission was misled and manipulated?

Who would come to such a service? Would Afghan-Americans in Baltimore come to an interfaith service in a Christian Church? Would those who opposed the wars come to affirm the rightness of their position—and renew calls for national repentance? Would other churches join us? Would it be too late to influence the settlement of Afghan refugees in this country? Don’t many people just want to forget about the war—after all, global warming is the biggest threat to the world today? Would such a service be political and divisive or respectful and appropriate?

This is more a thought experiment than a proposal. On Sunday we ordained and installed a deacon and an elder and prayed, “for the reconciliation of the world.” It is the purpose of churches like First & Franklin to offer hope and vision in ways that bring people together and point to God’s love and justice.

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Addressing important issues serves the common good.

The Social Creed for the 21st Century, which the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) celebrates on Labor Day, is a concise statement of what the ecumenical churches stand for in the world. It offers “a vision of a society that shares more and consumes less, seeks compassion over suspicion and equality over domination, and finds security in joined hands rather than massed arms.” It calls for “peacemaking through multilateral diplomacy rather than unilateral force, the abolition of torture, and a strengthening of the United Nations and the rule of international law.” See:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/acswp/socialcreed/>

What do such big topics have to do with the mission of First & Franklin? Well, that’s the kind of question an interim minister might ask. He might ask it on 9/11 and on World Communion Sunday, October 3, when we take the Peacemaking Offering. And please let him know if you want to respond—Presbyterians don’t believe in infallibility!

Grace and peace, (Rev.) Christian Iosso, Ph.D.

SESSION GUIDANCE REGARDING WORSHIP

Please be advised that Baltimore City has implemented an indoor mask mandate effective Monday, August 9, 2021, as of 9:00 A.M. for all persons, whether vaccinated or non-vaccinated. As a church we follow the public health guidance, based in science, designed to protect our neighbors and ourselves. Thus this mandate applies to our Narthex/Sanctuary/Chapel and all those attending services, and includes any attendees at church staff and committee meetings, Food Pantry, NA/AA/Al-Anon, weddings, visitors, etc.

This mask policy also applies to members, visitors, and staff inside any of our campus buildings for other purposes, until the mandate is lifted. We encourage all persons to be vaccinated and pray that this pandemic emergency may abate, allowing those affected by it to heal and medical personnel (some also affected) to have this particular burden and risk of care lifted from them. We are blessed to have a large sanctuary where distancing is possible and a campus where outdoor meetings can be held.

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.)

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! Sign-up Sheets are also available on Sunday during Fellowship Hour in Reid Chapel.

NEW DIRECTORY!



We have extended the opportunity for members and friends to fill out Directory forms in person and online. Covid has slowed things down, but made the need for connection clearer.

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.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in recognition of Labor Day! We will reopen at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sanctuary Choir



Jason Kissel, *Minister of Music & Organist*

The First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. and sing for worship on Sunday, September 12.

I am happy to welcome new volunteers and staff singers into the choir and church community. Volunteers Kate Rice and Rachel Walsh have been involved in excellent church music programs for much of their lives, including singing and ringing handbells. Alex Mendelsohn, my friend and colleague who will be leading our new handbell choir, will also be singing in the Sanctuary Choir.

Thanks to the generosity of several church members and friends, we have received gifts to maintain the staff component of our choir, and it is a joy to welcome young artists Zhenya Gnezdilova (soprano), Lauren Redditt (mezzo soprano), and Darius Sanders (tenor) to the choir. The staff singers play an important role in achieving a balanced ensemble capable of singing a vast body of music, they often mentor some of our volunteer singers, and they bring unique artistic gifts to the spiritual life of our church community. As I reflect, it is interesting to note that both Jan Trammell-Savin and Meredith Piplani originally entered First & Franklin as staff singers in the choir.

Appropriate precautions will be taken as the choir rehearses in the large space of the sanctuary. If you are interested in learning more about the Sanctuary Choir, please contact Jason Kissel at jkissel@firstfranklin.org

The Spire Series

The Spire Series continues to work on its live concert offerings for the 2021-22 season. Please mark your calendars for these two upcoming fall/winter concert dates!

November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Limmie Pulliam, *tenor*

Mark Markham, *piano*



December 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Choral Concert *with the*
The First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir



HANDBELLS

Bells have existed for thousands of years, but tuned handbells were developed in 17th century without disturbing the entire town! Did you know that First & Franklin owns two octaves of cast bronze handbells? This fall, we are starting a handbell choir and are planning to ring on Sunday, September 12 when the Sanctuary Choir is returning to services as well. While we aren't exactly sure about rehearsal times yet, if you're interested in ringing, please drop Alex Mendelsohn a note at namendelsohn@gmail.com so that we may include you in our planning.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATES



The Saturday afternoon food pantry continues to be a good resource for our neighbors who are facing food insecurity. We thought the need was diminishing when numbers

of people visiting went down in July. However, August has shown another uptick in attendance. The last three weeks we have been very busy by giving out 32, 30, and 29 bags of groceries plus at least as many bags filled with fresh produce. Thankfully, Corina Bridge's cousins continue to share leftover produce from their food pantries along with "soft" produce donated by Deal's Produce in Severna Park. We have often received a total of 12 boxes of fresh produce. It is a joy to generously share this fresh produce with our neighbors and the food is genuinely appreciated.

Your support is also genuinely appreciated. With folks on vacation, the support has somewhat dwindled. Please remember that your continued deliveries of canned foods and monetary donations are what keeps our doors open. We continue to need the basics -- peanut butter and jelly, cold cereal or instant oatmeal, pasta and sauces, rice and bean, soup, canned meats and fishes, and paper products (T.P. and paper towels). If you cannot drop donations off on Saturday, feel free to bring them to church on Sunday. If shopping is difficult, we will happily shop for you using your monetary donation.

Another need we have is for paper and plastic bags which are used for both fresh produce and the bag of staples.

Again, thank you for your generosity.
The Mission/Education Committee



A WORD FROM REV. KATE FOSTER OF THE CENTER

Greetings, Neighbors! The Center just wrapped up another summer of hands-on mission experiences in Baltimore Presbytery. Because of Covid-19, we were not able to safely host church groups safely at Hodge House this summer (instead, Hodge served as housing for our staff of 4 summer interns). However, we still were able to run mission experiences between June and August for 115 local participants who could join us during the day.

Partnering with our farm and food-distribution partners, we provided participants with Covid-safe, outdoor mission experiences at places like Knox Presbyterian Church, Greenmount West, For Our City Food Rescue, and Rockrose City Farm. And with the help of pop-up tents, we taught all of our programs onsite (occasionally helped by a snack of freezie pops when it was extra hot!), ensuring that our participants were able to process their experiences theologically.

I want to thank you for hosting one of our summer staff members, Sarah Rutherford, in worship. She thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your congregation! As always, I also want to thank you for making it possible for The Center to continue its ministry from our wonderful home base in Hodge House.

With gratitude,
Rev. Kate Foster (Executive Director, The Center)



BIRTHDAYS:

5 - Jason Kissel
6 - Michael Costa
8 - Rev. Chris Iosso
12 - David Fischel
16 - Nusrat David
21 - Sophia Piplani-Smith
23 - Mara Dudrow
24 - Coila Seiber

ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Ann and Michael Lucas
7 - Chris and David Wallace
23 - Steven Lapsley and Jim Sinclair
28 - Anjal Amin and Amy Pucino
30 - Scott Fulton and Sacha Koo-Oshima

Did we miss including yours? Please let us know!

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!

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND A UNIQUE INSTALLATION—

Church Boards are now in full membership.



During the August 22nd worship service, a new elder was ordained and installed and a deacon serving for the second time was installed-- in a pretty unique way. Both Ms. Rebecca ("Becca") Hollaway (elder) and Mr. Randolph ("Randy") Veale (deacon) were elected back at the Congregational Meeting on June 27th. They could not be present in July when the other newly elected elders and deacons were installed. Hence it was with great pleasure that all previously ordained elders, deacons, and ministers put their hands on Becca's shoulders and prayed for her ministry, after she had answered the questions of the church constitution. (I always wish there are more children present to see these ordinations.)

What came first, however, was more unique. Because Randy now works every Sunday morning, Ms. Martha Armenti, Moderator of the Deacons, video recorded Pastor Iosso administering our version of the oath of office to Mr. Veale at the Deacons meeting. Our sound engineer, Neve Jahn, then played that recording after our Clerk of Session, Jim Schroll, began the installation ceremony. We believe it went decently and in order.

Welcome to your ministries, Becca and Randy!

FELLOWSHIP BBQ PICNIC
SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 2021
IN THE COURTYARD AFTER SERVICE 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM
FOOD MUSIC FUN
COME HUNGRY AND ENJOY THE COMPANY!
R.S.V.P. by 9/8
First & Franklin Presbyterian Church

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
MULTI-AGE
CHURCH CLASS**



On Sunday, September 12, 2021, our Multi-age Church Class will meet at 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM. Because of a national uptick of COVID 19 among students returning to the classroom and a CDC-funded simulation project showing that without masking or testing, more than 75 percent of children could be infected within three months, the multi-age class has decided to be ultra- careful and delay in-person Bible lessons until the end of October, 2021.

Our weekly program serves Pre-K through middle school students in a single class. Once we join each other in person, students should bring an old jersey or smock to cover up because there is an art component attached to each lesson. Our classes will continue until the last Sunday in May 2022. There will be a two-week break attached to both Christmas and Easter. Students and the teacher are to be masked and we will attempt to social distance.

We would love all children of our church and outside of our church community, who want to learn about Our Lord, to join us.

I am asking students, new to our program, to contact Deborah McCrimmon in order to receive materials for Sunday lessons. For now, please join us using the attached ZOOM address on the 12th:

Join Zoom Multi-age Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6634626738?pwd=ay91TIF6UUUwQWVFeiVOalFuTE9JUT09>

Meeting ID: 663 462 6738

Passcode: 245570

If you have questions about our class, please contact Deborah McCrimmon at 516-761-2412 or deborah_mccrimmon@fa.org

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

The Forum is held on the First Floor of the Backus House at 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Dates: Sept 12, 19, 26 and Oct 3

POEM of the Month:

*“Suddenly in August, Leaving”
by Steve Hollaway*

They are selling pumpkin spice on a hot day during a Christmas sitcom episode. The calendar is as fluid as gender these days, old frameworks falling fast as Afghanistan at our farewell.

We are hanging onto the steel belly of the last transport to our old lives, no seats available to the old knowing as if God decided to pull out early while believers storm the only airport.

The Taliban are nothing new to me: *Overrun by Fundamentalists* is the leitmotif of my opera since Reagan, forty years in a wilderness of willful nostalgia for days of leeks and masters.

As an Afghan mother lifts a baby to Yanks standing brave on a barbed barricade, I throw my heart over the wall into whatever future, hoping the rest of me will follow, the opposite of going home.

Why are so many trying to leave Kabul, Baltimore, pre-pandemic lives at the risk of blowing up who they were, the self-made by this place and this people? We hope to reconstitute as free.

ADULT FORUM Study Leader: **Kris Stinson**

Topic: Jonah and the Big (Gadol) Story

Originally from California, Kris Stinson is a historian of religion who works at George Mason University. He teaches courses on the history of religion in America, the early American republic, and the global history of Christianity. His current project is on the history and fate of literalism in religion and history in the early modern world. He is very excited to learn alongside others in a study group framework.

He selected the Book of Jonah partly for its short, four-chapter length, matching the first four weeks of our return to in-person (masked) adult education. Note to parents of Sunday Schoolers who planned to come. Because Deborah McCrimmon will be managing a Zoom or hybrid classroom for the young ones (who are largely unvaccinated), we are not currently planning to zoom this class.

QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD

The 38 (!) questions below come from the book, *Interim Ministry in Action*, by Norman Bendroth. They suggest the scope of the “mission study,” which is a self-study required by the Presbytery before First & Franklin can start its Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). One purpose of the interim period is to reduce the danger of hiring in reaction to a previous pastor, or in an effort to re-create a previous situation. These questions get at unquestioned assumptions about who the church is and what its strengths are.

Sometimes a church is compared to a “family system,” where people (including ministers) are assigned roles semi-unconsciously. Those roles include “favored child,” “caregiver,” “designated patient,” “internal critic,” even “outsider.” That seems to imply closeness and sharing—which covid has reduced—but most of us are more sensitive about the impacts of others than we might admit.

The interim minister is supposed to be a steadying presence to help past commitments be re-evaluated and new leadership emerge. By virtue of being time-limited, the interim is not supposed to invest him or herself in particular outcomes, as these are for the church to determine. At the same time, the interim is to help the church be in the best possible position for the next pastor. For those who are new, it is perhaps the most exciting or interesting time because the situation is fluid and new insights are most welcomed.

As you enjoy the questions, you may of course ask, “what’s missing?” and “where do I fit?”

1. Why do we exist?
2. What is our reason for being?
3. What makes us unique as a congregation?
4. What is our reputation in the community?
5. If we disappeared, what would the community miss?
6. **Who are we?**
7. Who are the saints, heroes and villains in the church’s memory?
8. When was the church at its best or its worst?

9. What nonnegotiable values drive programs and activities?
10. What kind of behavior is acceptable or unacceptable?
11. **Who is our neighbor?**
12. What is the make-up of this community?
13. Where do people hang out?
14. What do people do for a living?
15. Is this an established area or a changing neighborhood?
16. Where are our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?
17. Where is health we can nurture?
18. Does our structure and stewardship support the ministry we are to do?
19. **What is God calling us to do and become?**
20. What feeds our souls spiritually so we are equipped to do our ‘activities?’
21. How are we helping people to discover their gifts in service of ministry?
22. What are ways we show respect and appreciation for one another?
23. Are children an important part of our congregation? If so, how do we show it?
24. **What are our norms?**
25. How do we process information?
26. How do we deal with disagreements?
27. How do we balance caring for the congregation and ministry beyond our walls?
28. How does our decision making reflect our faith?
29. Are lives being touched and changed?
30. Are we growing in faith?
31. Do we stand up to injustice?
32. Are our children being prepared to be Christians in the world?
33. Are people comfortable being themselves in our congregation?
34. Do we welcome difference? If so, how?
35. How transparent are our finances, decisions, and committees?
36. Do people gossip or do they address concerns by speaking directly with the person?
37. Do people speak for themselves and not for others?
38. Are we afraid of conflict?

A TEXAN'S MISSION IN THE CENTER OF BALTIMORE

By Sarah Rutherford



Good morning. I am Sarah Rutherford. I am originally from Dallas, and I am about to start my senior year at Texas A&M University in

College Station, Texas, majoring in Religious Studies with minors in French and Sociology. After finishing my degree, I plan to attend seminary and pursue pastoral ministry. I am currently serving as an intern at The Center, the mission and community engagement office that supports the congregations of the Presbytery of Baltimore. The program currently houses its mission experience dormitory at Hodge House, the building behind the sanctuary, where the interns have lived for the past two months.

Until a few months ago, I had never heard of The Center. I had originally planned to study abroad this summer, but the trip was cancelled. While this was not unexpected, I was suddenly forced to find another summer option. The pastor of my home church, Tracey Davenport, who had previously served a Presbyterian church in the Baltimore area, encouraged me to apply for a Center internship. And that is how I ended up driving to Baltimore from Dallas at the beginning of June to start a ten-week internship experience. It has been a whirlwind of a summer; as we all know, we are not yet free of the limitations of the pandemic, and the Center's summer staff have been forced to adapt to changing circumstances. Over the course of this summer, though, I have seen God at work in powerful ways through The Center's programs and in my own life.

Many of you may be familiar with one of The Center's biggest programs, its summer mission weeks for youth groups. Essentially, we enable church youth groups to come into the city to work with different partner organizations in the area. We lead daily programming focused on the intersection of faith and justice within the city of Baltimore and in the youth's own communities.

Due to the pandemic, youth groups have not stayed overnight in the dorm facility, and most of our sites this summer have been outdoors, such as community gardens and food distributions.

It has been a huge blessing to serve alongside our partner congregations and organizations and to witness the amazing work that they are doing in Baltimore. These partners include Knox Presbyterian Church, Rockrose Community Garden, the Stillmeadow Fellowship Peace Park, Glenwood Life Recovery Garden, and Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. All of these groups are passionate about addressing issues in their communities, whether food insecurity, neighborhood improvement, or serving the most vulnerable. Getting to work with these groups has been an eye-opening experience into what innovative ministry can look like.

Of course, a big part of the internship this summer has been working with the youth who take part in our mission weeks. Since we are only doing day trips this summer, we have mostly had semi-local groups, but many of these students are new to the ministries we are taking them to in Baltimore. Every day we lead a program with them, and it has been an incredible experience to get to teach and to listen to the youth who work with us.

Some days are better than other days. The first week we had youth, for example, it rained the entirety of the second day, and we made the serious mistake of not having a backup indoor site. We all got soaked, and spent multiple hours huddling under one popup tent in a park. It felt a bit like rock bottom as far as the internship was concerned. But on the last day with that group, we asked the youth what their favorite part of the week had been, and all of them said it was the rain day. This surprised us interns, but the youth said it was because they had really cherished the bonding and the unexpected fellowship that we enjoyed underneath the tent in the rain. This was an important lesson to me. It was a reminder that ultimately, our plans, or lack thereof, are not what determine God's work

continued next page

in the world. And that even though we may mess up, God can and does do wonderful things in the midst of chaos.

My favorite part of this internship, however, has been getting the chance to meet so many people who are at work in their communities, whether it be through churches, nonprofits, or other programs. While weeding, distributing food, or clearing land, it has been a privilege to speak with the people we meet on site as well as the people who come in to work with us. I have gotten to meet community organizers, pastors, and volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds, who all care deeply about their communities. When I was beginning this job, the director, Rev. Kate Foster, told me that The Center focused on forming relational connections through its mission work in Baltimore, and this has been abundantly evident to me over these past ten weeks. One of the things we talk about with the youth groups, is crossing boundaries of race, socioeconomic status, and geographical area. Interning at The Center has opened my eyes to some of the great things that crossing these boundaries can make possible.

Outside of the job itself this summer, I have been blessed with the opportunity to expand my horizons in Baltimore and beyond. One of these areas of exploration has been church. Since I was only going to be here for a summer, I decided that it would be both interesting and useful to visit multiple churches and to see how different congregations do worship. So far, I have worshipped at seven different churches, and it has truly been a blessing to get to experience so many as a visitor, including First & Franklin.

Apart from worship, I have also tried to explore the area. In Baltimore, I have tried to do a thorough job as a tourist. I have also logged many miles on my car in day trips to places such as Harpers Ferry, Washington DC, Delaware, and Philadelphia. While these trips were not necessarily focused on my faith, I still saw God in all of these places - both in their beauty and in the people I got to meet.

Perhaps the most impactful day trip was to visit a seminary for the first time at the end of July. When asked what I plan to do after finishing my undergraduate degree, my standard answer begins with, "I plan to go to seminary." Now, at the beginning of my last year of college, I was blessed with the chance to go visit a seminary in-person. The seminary itself was lovely, but part of the gift of the visit was the reminder that God's call on my life is ever present and growing. I do not know what seminary I will be attending, nor what my ministry will look like in the years to follow, but this summer has given me the chance to explore what ministry can look like in different contexts, and to consider where and how God may be using me now and in the future. The Center is truly doing incredible, innovative ministry in Baltimore, and I am enormously grateful for the chance to participate in this internship, as well as for the support of churches such as First & Franklin. It is my prayer that God will continue to work through The Center and its partners, as well as through my own life as I continue to discern God's calling for me. Thank you.

NO GUNS IN GOD'S HOUSE

As part of our continuing effort to address violence in the city, the Mission/Education Committee, with the approval of Session, has posted signs on the doors to the church which read, "No Guns in God's House". The signs add that "On-duty Police Officers who are required to carry a weapon are always welcome". This sign is another way in which we can continue the Purple Ribbon Ministry and share Jesus' message of non-violence to the Mount Vernon Community.

THANK OFFERING FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

OCTOBER 17TH AND 24TH, 2021

Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, planted the seed for the Thank Offering in 1888 when she urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North American. Since then, faithful givers have responded to Eliza's call to give a "thank offering to her Lord." Over the last 33 years, Presbyterian Women has granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering.

In 2021 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 29 Thank Offering applications and selected 12 projects for funding. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women has chosen 12 grant recipients this year. This year these are the 9 national recipients:

Synod of the Alaska-Northwest	Presbytery of Olympia	Hagar's Community Church	1
Synod of the Living Waters	Holston Presbytery	Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center, Inc.	2
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic	Presbytery of Charlotte	Cooperative Christian Ministries Oper. Desert Drop	3
	Salem Presbytery	Springwood Presby. Church	4
Synod of the South Atlantic	Presby. of Central Florida	Habitat for Humanity	5
	Presby. of Greater Atlanta	Hope Harbor Ministries	6
	Foothills Presbytery	Cancer Assoc. of Anderson	7
Synod of the Southwest	Presbytery de Cristo	Frontera de Cristo	8
Synod of the Sun	Presby. of South Louisiana	Child Advocacy Services	9

This year these are the 3 International recipients:

BELIZE

GUATEMALA Puerta Abierta (Open Door) Libros Abiertos (Open Books)

ZAMBIA Church of Central Africa Presbytery -Synod of Zambia
Chasefu Theological College

Please check on the bulletin board for more details of each recipient. Thank You in advance for your Donation.

RE: The ITL Picnic Advertised on the back page

This is the 12 Presbyterian Congregations (6 African American, 6 majority white) that are located within the Loop of 695 in Baltimore. We cooperate in mission with them. If you would like to meet members of those churches active in justice and compassion ministries, please email Rev. Iosso:

ciosso@firstfranklin.org.

THE INQUIRERS LUNCH SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

We are blessed to have visitors-- every Sunday! They are not (usually) tourists, but fellow pilgrims, hearing God's voice in their lives, exploring a possible place to grow in the Spirit, at least for a while. We welcome them with warmth, ask if we can be helpful, and invite them to join us in this part of the one church. It does take more independence of mind to belong to any organization these days, but in our case, it is a way to be more fully a part of the "we." Lunches like this-- call or email if you would like to come-- are times when we can explain how our tradition can deepen faith, and talk about how our particular time machine works!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FROM SUMMER TO FALL

Now that Summer is over, we need to ask that members and friends catch up with their pledges and planned giving to the church. Our contributions for July and August totaled \$41,678. There was an additional \$3,000 for Pastor's Discretionary Fund - less than our usual numbers. Two things are basic to our commitment to First & Franklin-- gratitude to those who have gone before and provided the endowment, and determination to reduce the amount we "drawdown" from it. Our regular giving does not cover our expenses. Covid hit our rental income, and though we also reduced program, every degree of air-conditioning in the sanctuary costs money (and has environmental trade-offs).

Your Finance Committee is taking measures, with the Session, to reduce our spending. But the budget is not simply business-- people are affected and the big three- faith, hope, and love-- are involved. So we give prayerfully, praying for the Session's wisdom, the conviction of donors, and the faithful creativity of our members, friends, and staff. Your leadership sees a lot happening and are being as strategic as they can. The full budget is in the Annual Report for those interested in more information.

Lastly, individual stewardship is between you and God. Some of us live without luxuries or vacations, others of us can afford them. Some of us are starting out, some thriving, some hanging on. Each of us is loved by God-- equally and also uniquely-- but the market economy has very rough edges. And there are things like fires, and floods, falls and followers. So we give partly for the rainy day of need, and we give-- if we can-- even when it is raining.



PEACEMAKING & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Peacemaking & Global Witness Offering Through September there will be inserts in the (in-person) bulletin. They will describe some of the international peacemaking commitments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These efforts are supported by the "special (or churchwide) offering" taken on October 3, World Communion Sunday. The Presbyterian Church also has a small office at the Church Center across the street from the United Nations where, every mid-September, heads of state gather for the opening of the UN's General Assembly. The Peacemaking offering is also special in that 25% remains with the congregation and 25% goes to the presbytery, with the rest going to denomination-wide programs. World Communion Sunday itself was begun by a Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, partly to emphasize our unity as one church across all national differences.



Brown · Cherry Hill
Dickey Memorial
First & Franklin · Grace
Kenwood · Hunting Ridge · Knox
Light Street · Lochearn
Madison Avenue · Trinity
Presbyterian Churches

IN THE LOOP MINISTRY GROUP Picnic

Saturday, September 18th

Don't miss any of the fun!

Arrive by 3 & Stay 'til 6 pm

If you like, bring your chair or blankets...
We have the rest covered!

In The Woodlands@Catonsville Presbyterian Church
1400 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

Reserve your **FREE** Burgers (Register) at <https://forms.gle/fXaWYdB22XZ9FpFa8>
by September 15th

For more information, text or call Kenny (443-415-1652) or Annette (410-207-2520)



Let's Gather TOGETHER...
As we Pray, Eat & Play