

FirstPress

April 2024

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kort & Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort

Co-Pastors

A Missive from Miss Good

One of my greatest joys of working with youth through the years, is witnessing how Youth Sunday comes together. Beginning with a brainstorming session with lots of energy and ideas bouncing *all over*, to finally landing in a sweet spot the youth feel passionate about, is something to witness and behold. Regardless of the theme the youth select, one thing is certain: First Presbyterian is a place they trust and at which they feel comfortable talking about what is on their mind.



Youth Sunday is a beloved tradition that I inherited when I accepted the position of Director of Youth Ministry. I must admit, the first time, I was terrified of the responsibility of leading Youth Sunday! That is until I realized that the single most important gift to give the youth was a safe space to create and share *their* voice. After all, it is *THEIR* service. Of course there are always last minute details that need to be worked out; issues that arise at the 11th hour (such as when Youth Sunday was online during the pandemic); and the task of gently pushing youth to meet established deadlines (sort of like like herding cats). Rehearsal -- typically held the day before -- can also be challenging because young people are *BUSY*! And not with just church; they are also busy with school, sports, and extracurricular activities that consume a great deal of their time! And then, don't forget they

also have a social life and need family time as well. So to say that we are blessed to have them present for an entire service created solely by them, is nothing short of miraculous! To witness the Holy Spirit at work, join us at Sunday Youth Fellowship.

Led by the Youth Leadership Team (YLT) -- Ben Lander, Caroline Kempton, Sophie and Jackie Hudiburg, Anna Balcer, and Gracie McMlemore, Amanda Ford -- youth began planning worship four months ago in January. This year, they carved out time during the youth lock-in to brainstorm themes. And while they came up with some great ideas, they decided instead to join the rest of the church this year and focus on Rachel Held Evan's book, *Wholehearted Faith*.

While our Sunday evening fellowship structure sometimes is a *little loose*, the youth are required one thing when creating and planning this service: to be *authentic* to their voice and the message they wish to convey. Youth are given creative liberties while being grounded in the scripture. We have so many talented young people at this church, this Youth Sunday service provides them an opportunity to take the lead and give us a glimpse into what they are thinking and feeling.

I am beyond proud of each one of our youth and the hard work they have put into creating this year's service. Please come to **Youth Sunday on April 28 at 10:00 am (one service)**, to support them, and more importantly, hear what they have their message!

Peace, Miss



Youth
Sunday
(2017)

About Worship

Lois Lander

Worship is at 8:30 and 11:00 am with Education at 9:30 and Fellowship at 10:30 am. Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month, and Crossroads for children age 5 through 5th grade every week (except Communion Sundays). The nursery is open 8am to noon and **free parking at the Hillman Garage until 1pm.**

April 7 - Communion; Older Adult Recognition Sunday

Pastor Mihee will preach. The Lord's Supper will be served. Crossroads Choir will share their song in worship.

April 14 - Baptism; Crossroads

Pastor Andy will preach. Allen and Kelsey Black's children, Sloane and Nicholas, will be baptized at 11:00 am.

April 21 - Guest Preacher Bill Hathaway; Crossroads

The Rev. Dr. Bill Hathaway will preach "Come to Jesus Moments" from Matthew 16:21-23. Bill served as our pastor from 1999 to 2018. Upon retirement, he and wife, Alison moved to Wilmington DE to be close to son Dan and Melissa, plus four grandkids (*yes, four!*), a close train ride to son Halsey and Jolynn in NYC, and to enjoy life in a small, walkable city. They split time between family, travel, and volunteering (Haiti Reforestation, Planned Parenthood, homeless shelter at First & Central Presbyterian, their new church home). They report being blessed by good health and a PCUSA retirement income.

April 28 - Youth Sunday; One Service @10:00 am

Middle and high school youth will write, prepare and share one service at 10:00 am. Crossroads Choir will sing in worship.

Ushers

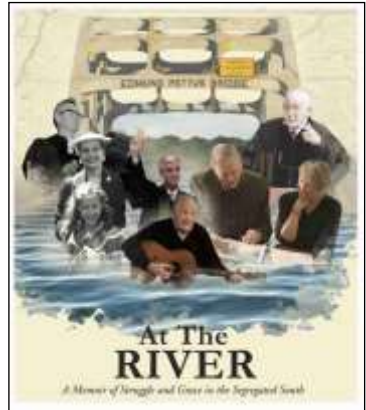
We are always looking for ushers to welcome people to worship on Sundays, as well as at special services. Please signup online at <https://fpcannapolis.link/usher> or email Robert.Foye@gmail.com.

Committee on Antiracism + Racial Equity (CARE)

Deb Mitchell

CARE has been hard at work offering great educational programs to the congregation:

- In February, we teamed with *One America* to learn ways to have **difficult conversations** with people with whom we may disagree.
- In March, we were treated to a private tour of the **Banneker-Douglass Museum**, a gem practically in our own backyard!
- This month, join us to experience a little Presbyterian history, particularly issues with racism in the '60s. We will host a second viewing of the popular **“At the River”** movie on Sunday evening, April 14, 7:00-9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you missed the first showing, make a point of joining us for this last showing – the movie is a profound and engaging experience! Free, but space is limited.



RSVP with email to movie@annapolis-presbyterian.com.

Mobile Cart Library

On Sunday mornings, check out our mobile library with great books for all ages – lots of ways to educate yourself on the history and issues of racism. Feedback welcome!

Congregational Life

Barbara Jacobs

Older Adult Recognition Sunday: April 7

Members 85 years and older will receive a letter from the Congregational Life Committee welcoming them to attend the 11:00 am service on April 7. We ask that you email or mail some of your special memories so that we might share them with the congregation. Kindly RSVP and include a few memories to **Barbara Jacobs** (bjacobsrn@gmail.com, 703.819.2464).

Presbyterian Pickleball: Spring / Summer

4:00-6:00 pm on April 28, May 19, June 30. All skills levels welcome. Games are played at the Truxton Courts in Annapolis on Hilltop Lane. For updates and breaking news, email **Mary Stuart Kempton** (mskempton@hotmail.com).

High School + College Graduate Celebration

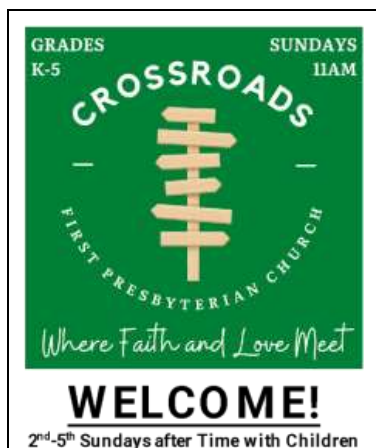
Graduates! Please join us on Sunday, May 12. We will host a gathering for graduates and their families, with gifts and well wishes, before the 11:00 am service. RSVP to Barb Jacobs (bjacobsrn@gmail.com).

Grief Support Group

Loss comes to us in so many ways. Grieving is hard work and drains us emotionally, physically and spiritually. This is a group open to all and will help you grieve honestly and seek the care provided in community, prayer, and God's word. You're not alone. Join us for these caring, supportive, hope-filled sessions convened by **Marion Schilder**. For information email the church office (office@annapolis-presbyterian.com).

Family + Youth Ministry

Miss Good, Mindy LeBlanc



Crossroads

In April, Crossroads is offered at 11:00 worship for k-5th graders on the second and third Sunday of the month. Children meet on the third floor of the main church building following the Children's message. Please pick up at this location after worship concludes.

Crossroads Choir



Led by our talented Music Director Jill Woodward, the children will be singing in two more services -- April 7 + 28 -- and will then break over the summer, gathering again in the fall.

Youth Fellowship

Youth will meet April 7 + 21, 5:00-7:00 pm to focus their efforts on planning for Youth Sunday, April 28. Come be a part of this long-standing tradition at FPC! Youth, we *NEED* your voice! Dinner provided.



Dinner + A Movie: At the River



Sunday, April 14, 6:00-9:00 pm.
Youth, join us to experience a little Presbyterian history, particularly issues with racism in the '60s. The Committee on Antiracism and Racial Equity will be hosting a second viewing of

the very popular “At the River” in Fellowship Hall.

Imagine... *It is the 1960s, and times are changing. Black people are protesting being treated as second-class citizens, petitioning for the right to vote and for integration in all parts of daily life -- schools, neighborhoods, restaurants, movie theaters, retail stores and transportation. Push back was happening all over America, but nowhere was that opposition more pronounced than in the South. Many white Presbyterian ministers preaching to congregations in rural communities throughout the South and Southeast joined the Civil Rights movement for equality and justice for all. “At the River,” filmed by a white Southerner, is based on more than 100 hours of interviews. The film tells their stories about what actions they took and what consequences they faced.*

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Deeply moving and beautifully crafted – you don't want to miss it! Sponsored by First Presbyterian's Committee on Antiracism + Racial Equity (CARE).

Youth Sunday: April 28



This year's theme: *Wholehearted Faith*.

NOTE: one service at 10:00 am. Come and experience what the youth of church have worked on the past four months and want to share! All ages welcome. Children are invited to remain in worship and participate (Crossroads not offered). The nursery will be

open for infants through five year olds.

Vacation Bible School



Registration Opens May 1

Lecture Committee

Pat Foye



Jean-Francois Seznec (2022)

Our own **Jean-Francois Seznec** will be providing his insights on the Middle East Sunday, April 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. For those who have yet to experience these annual talks, Jean-Francois brings a *wealth* of knowledge and experience around the politics and economics of the Middle East, and his insights are a gift. We will conclude by 1:30 pm. Bring your questions.

About Jean-Francois. Jean-François Seznec is a political scientist specializing in business and finance in the Middle East. He retired in 2020 and now spends his time managing Hollywood Farm, a fourth-generation family farm in the Broadneck peninsula of Annapolis, Maryland.

Prior to his retirement, he was an adjunct professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at the Johns Hopkins University (2012-2020) and at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business and Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (2002-2015); both located in Washington, DC. Seznec was previously visiting associate professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, where he taught from 2001 to 2012.

Membership

David Richardson

Are you, or anyone you know, interested in learning more about the church and exploring active membership? If so, please join us:

- April 14
- April 21
- April 28

We will meet at 9:30 am in Shaw Chapel, next to the courtyard. (If these dates do not work, let us know and we can make other arrangements.) To RSVP or questions, email Membership Elder, **David Richardson** (davidrichardson214@gmail.com) or Rev. Andy Kort (andy@annapolis-presbyterian.com).



Mission

Lizi Schilder

Czech Committee

The committee has selected the team that will travel to Letohrad for the "English to the Church" (ETTC) camp this summer. **Anna Balcer, Sophie Hudiburg, Caroline Kempton and Ben Lander**, along with adult leaders **Miss Good and Jacob Hancock**, will work with our Czech partners to lead children in activities focused on "Seeking Peace Together" July 29-August 2. With great enthusiasm, the team has already begun meeting to prepare! The ETTC team and the Czech Committee welcome the congregation's encouragement and prayer. The group will be commissioned at the 9:30 service on July 21.

County Schools Seek Volunteers

Have you been wanting to get involved in our county schools, but you didn't know what to do or where to start? ACT has a possibility for you. Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark T. Bedell would like to see volunteers *back* into the schools. At meetings with ACT's Education Team, he said he was looking for volunteers to mentor a student or to be part of the "Be Present" program. Dr. Bedell said he benefited from being mentored as a teen and knows what a positive difference mentoring can make. In the program, volunteers interact informally with students at pre-arranged times during the school day. The school system provides training for both programs and pays for the background checks necessary to be a school volunteer. Learn more at <https://www.aacps.org/bepresent>.

Haiti Reforestation Partnership (HRP)

A Message from the Executive Director, Michael Annello

Dear Folks, for some time now we have been sharing news with you embedded in our concern for the troubles in Haiti. But

now, we have to be blunt. Haiti is closing in on anarchy, perhaps even civil war. I have left the country along with the other two remaining “Blancs” (white people from the US) in Leogane. I do not believe I will be able to return. As I write, it is expected that the National Palace will be overrun by the gangs, and that will symbolize the collapse of the government and chaos.

You can learn much of this from the national news. What you can’t know is the story of what is happening with our Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP) community.

The people of CODEP are living a compromised life now. Food is meager, and the shelves in the market stands are largely bare. People don’t go out on the main roads if they can avoid it as gangs form blockades and extort payment to pass. What they can do is walk along the mountain paths in relative safety. They are doing so to convey seedlings from the nurseries to the mountains where they plan to start planting on the first day of spring!

I am fielding calls from other non-governmental organizations (NGO) in Haiti. People are calling for advice. “How do we escape if we have to?” “Where can I send the staff if we are overrun?” We anticipate that we will be opening the doors of the CODEP compound and guest house so that some might be able to stay there.

There are two things we can do for CODEP in this moment of societal disintegration. They need financial support and they need to know they are not alone. The banks are closed but we can send money in through Western Union. Carlos, the Animator with the business responsibilities, can find his way into Leogane to receive it. And, with the wonders of What’s App and technology, I can still talk to people every day, field questions, listen carefully, make suggestions, and tell them we still have their backs. Both are important.

Therefore, I have a request. I am here in the States now. I have the CODEP story to tell, and it is important. CODEP is hoping that I am sharing it broadly. Please, if you have an idea of a venue, audience, organization, or service club that would welcome me as a speaker, let me know.



The *Haiti Reforestation 2023 Annual Report* is complete and will be posted on the HRP website (<https://haitireforest.org/>). Look for it there in coming days!

Coats for Kids

The Center of Help was the largest recipient of coats this past year. The last of the coats were delivered in March. The center helps immigrant families with everything from learning English to finding jobs and housing. We also provided forms for families to register their children for free books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. They are grateful.

Planned Giving

Mike Shultz

Now Accepting Applications for \$5,000 Moran Youth Scholarship

The Connie and Mark Moran Scholarship application is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. High school seniors and college youth members of the church may apply. Each year the scholarship gives \$5,000 to a student for education at an accredited college, a military academy, Anne Arundel Community College, or an accredited vocational education institution.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APRIL 15

Applicants will be reviewed holistically, but priority is given to *students who have shown strong involvement with the church's programs and activities, demonstrate financial need, rank in the top third of their class, are involved in school or community service, and possess strong moral character.* Email Miss Good (miss@annapolis-presbyterian.com).



Connie & Mark Moran

Spiritual Formation

Pat Foye



Adult Ed Sunday mornings

KC4a Adult Ed with Deb Mitchell

The Sunday School class is working on one last book for this program year: *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. All are welcome! To be added to the distribution list, send a note to Sharon in the church office (office@annapolis-presbyterian.com)

About the Book: *Holy Envy*

The renowned and beloved New York Times bestselling author of *An Altar in the World* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark* recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey begun in *Leaving Church*, of finding out what the world looks like after taking off her clergy collar. In *Holy Envy*, she contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques. Come, join the exploration!

Trustees

Randy Habeck

The Board of Trustees has completed its first several meetings of 2024, and is pleased to report several actions we have taken on behalf of the church:

1. First, our church is one of the emergency housing facilities for refugees in Anne Arundel County. We have made sure we are ready with facilities and supplies if called upon as a participant in the backup plan for a short emergency shelter.
2. Second, the beginning of Emergency Response Team (ERT) training took place in March. This course is important for members to better prepare us for any emergency response, whether personal or in church. Please look for more training dates and try to participate in the Zoom sessions.
3. Third, the trustees reviewed the proper signatory requirements and updated those for all our bank and investment accounts. We will also begin an audit of valuation of church real estate assets to better understand the values of our buildings. John Jamieson has begun a design for the budget process of a capital improvement for the manse. As we complete the appraisal, we will insure proper insured values and communicate the values to the congregation.
4. And finally, the ongoing review of the by-laws and procedures is being completed for a congregational review this summer with the goal of improving the procedures portion of our governance. Future news articles will include updates on our financial performance as we continue through the year.

April Birthdays (not listed online)



News of Members + Friends

Note these updates or contact the office for a PDF directory.

On April 21, the two children of Allen and Kelsey Black, daughter Sloane and son Nicholas, will be baptized.



Congratulations to son of **Matt and Emily Coffey, William John**, baptized on March 3 with Pastor Mihee.



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Reporters Members
Editors Pastors, Chris West, Susan Gross

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May Newsletter
Deadline:
April 15

FirstPress



First Presbyterian Church
171 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401
PHONE (410) 267-8705
FAX (410) 268-9643
EMAIL office@annapolis-presbyterian.com
WEB www.annapolis-presbyterian.com
NEWSLETTER
Address Service Requested

**FREE SUNDAY
PARKING AT
HILLMAN UNTIL 1PM**
(Although City website reads "until
2pm," the garage is enforcing 1pm)

Parking tickets given in error should
be directed to Annapolis Parking:
[https://www.annapolisparking.com/pa
rking.../hillman-garage/](https://www.annapolisparking.com/parking.../hillman-garage/)