

FirstPress

May 2024

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

Co-Pastors



Pastor Mihee's Message

We are winding down another program year -- can you believe it -- our fourth one together? We have a few more weeks of the Easter Season, which according to our denominational

website “lasts seven weeks (a week of weeks), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. It is a season intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church. But, of course, Easter really isn’t just a season either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are ‘dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus’ (Rom. 6:11), called to ‘walk in newness of life’ (Rom. 6:4).”

We’ll be celebrating so much new life this month: baptisms, recognition of volunteers who work with children and youth, graduates from high school and college, and Pentecost. The time from Easter to Pentecost is full of both mystery and joy as we look to the risen Christ in our midst in both extraordinary and ordinary ways. On Pentecost we are reminded of the ongoing gift of the Holy Spirit who animates and guides not only our identity, but our work. Once more from our denominational website: “On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church’s proclamation of Christ’s rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church. We celebrate the Spirit that draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people."

As we look to the summer and continue in our work and life together, we are happy to welcome a seminary intern, Mary Shelley Reid, who will be entering her third year at Princeton Theological Seminary. Beginning June 2 through August 11, she'll be participating in worship, attending committee meetings, offering a mid-week adult study, helping with pastoral care, and spending time with our families. We look forward to her creative presence and supporting her in her vocational journey. *If you are interested in serving this summer on the Seminarian Support Team, please contact me for more information!*

In joy and hope,



I'm Mary Shelley Reid, an M.Div. student at Princeton Seminary.



I'm originally from Clemson, South Carolina and studied English and Religion at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina before moving to Princeton. In my free time, I love reading, writing, and spending time in nature. I'm interested in the intersection of worship and the arts and how the stories we tell

ourselves inform our relationships with God, ourselves, and each other. I'm so excited to work with you all at First Pres Annapolis!

About Worship

Lois Lander

Through Memorial Day weekend, 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 every week (except Communion Sundays). The nursery is open 8:00 to noon, and there is free parking at the Hillman Garage Sunday mornings.

NOTE: On May 26, we shift to summer schedule with worship at 8:00 am in the courtyard and 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The nursery is open! Coffee and Education hours break for summer, but both resume September 8, the weekend *after* Labor Day.

Ushers

We are always looking for ushers to welcome people to worship on Sundays, as well as at 9:30 am in summer. Signup online at <https://fpcannapolis.link/usher> or email Robert.Foye@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead in Worship

May 5 - Communion, Crossroads Choir, Bread for the Journey, Baptism

Pastor Mihee will preach from Psalm 98 and John 15:9-17. Karen Smith will serve as liturgist. The Lord's Supper will be served. Evan Jallade, son of FPC member Jill Ferris, will be baptized, and Bread for the Journey will be offered to William Martin.

May 12 - Graduate Recognition, Baptism, Crossroads

Pastor Andy will preach from Psalm I and Acts 1:15-17, 21-26. Crossroads is offered. High school and college graduates will be recognized. Pastor Mihee will baptize Nolan Krone, grandson of Helen and Roger Krone.



Pentecost Sunday (2021)

May 19 - **Pentecost; Final Sunday of Regular Worship Schedule;
Teacher Volunteer Appreciation; New Member Welcome**

Pastor Andy will preach, the Chancel Choir will sing, teacher volunteers will be recognized at 11:00 am, and Crossroads is offered. **Wear RED!**

May 26 - First Sunday Summer Worship at 8:00 + 9:30 am

Trinity Sunday, Pastor Mihee will preach.



Presbyterian Women in the Congregation

Judi Dunn

PWC welcomes you to spring with colorful May baskets. Prepared annually by **Carol Patterson**, they adorn the front doors of the church as well as the Zimmerman-Wilson House. Thanks for sharing your time and talents, Carol!



May baskets and awards adorn campus doors!

On Easter Sunday, we served an expanded coffee time for the choir between their two services. It is nice to have a chance to show our appreciation for all of their hard work, and to give them a chance to relax.



Our pledge drive is proceeding nicely. For those of you who have already contributed, we thank you for helping us to meet our stated goals: supporting the youth mission trips, local charities, and so much more. If you have yet to send in your PWC check, our treasurer **Chris West** is standing by!

PWC will break for the summer and resume meeting in the fall. CLAMS and the reception committees will continue to work!

Congregational Life

Barbara Jacobs



May 11 Flower Workshop: Tussie Mussies + Nose-Gays

10:00-noon at the home of **Helen Foxwell** (1169 Tanager Drive, Millersville) with RSVP to h.foxwell@att.net by May 7. These wee, tiny bouquets are perfect for special ladies on Mother's Day. We will provide materials and purchase flowers but these creations are *best* with wild, garden flowers plus herbs (feel free to bring your own). Be creative in foraging and think *miniature*. Using the techniques learned from past workshops, prep the plant cuttings (it is ideal to take a bucket of prep solution as you cut).
BYO scissors + flower snippers!

Presbyterian Pickleball

May 19 and June 30, 4:00-6:00 pm. 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! Join us Sunday, May 12. We will host a gathering for school graduates and their families, with gifts and well wishes, before the 11:00 am service. RSVP to **Barb Jacobs** (bjacobsrn@gmail.com).

Last Month

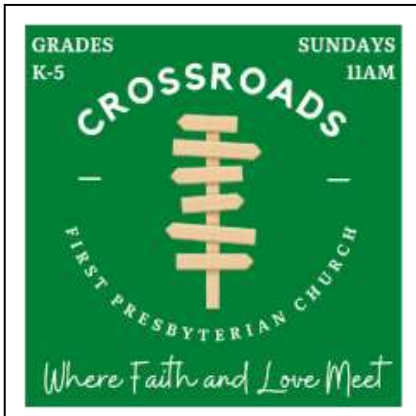
We celebrated older adult members of our congregation on April 7. These members have been a vital part of church life and ministry for years and are a group that has given much to the congregation in both time and talent. They have served on session, deacons, trustees, PWC, Mission Committee, Caregivers, and CLAMS. They have taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, participated in Women's Circles and PWC, attended Bible studies, belonged to the Spiritual Growth Group, and worked for Sweat Equity. One member was a part of the *original* Czech Committee which traveled to Letohrad to assist with the construction of their church building!

We asked these members for special memories and learned about the importance of the groups mentioned above. One special memory was around now-deceased members **Louise P. Johnson** and **Mary Graham** who began a grief and loss support group 20 years ago, a group that thrived for many years. We heard stories of appreciation during times of illness and in the loss of loved ones, especially for the support of the pastors, deacons and church members. One member spoke of the comfort she *still* feels from a prayer shawl given to her loved one. Another shared: "First Presbyterian is a loving, caring and inclusive community, connecting our faith to our everyday lives and challenges, and helping us find our way in today's complicated world."

We remain very grateful for our older adults' presence and ministry in our midst, yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

Family + Youth Ministry

Miss Good, Mindy LeBlanc



Crossroads Choir: May 5

Join Miss and Jill on May 5.

Crossroads Education:

May 12 + 19

Crossroads continues at 11:00 worship for k-5th graders on the second and third Sundays. Children meet on the third floor of the main church building following Time with Children.

Please pick up at this location after worship concludes.

NOTE: Crossroads will break from May 26-September 1.

Youth Fellowship: May 5 + 19

On May 5, youth will join our Comunidad Presbiteriana La



Trinidad (CPT) neighbors at the spring garden cleanup. May 19 will conclude our program year, gathering from 5:00-7:00 pm with dinner. We will break over the summer months to focus on summer events such as the

Montreat Youth Conference, English to the Church (ETTC) camp in the Czech Republic, and Vacation Bible School in August.

Graduate Recognition: May 12

As they make significant life transitions, please keep our high school and college graduates in your prayers. Thank you to the Congregational Life Committee for celebrating and recognizing the graduates on May 12.

Teacher + Youth Fellowship Volunteer Appreciation

On May 19 we will recognize the individuals who gave of their time, resources and talents to the youth and children of our church. It truly takes a village to support these programs and we are blessed to have our volunteers in our family ministry village.

A **HUGE** thank you to:

-  Crossroads: **Jennifer Meixell, Vanessa Forisha, Kelly Friends, Lindsey Seynhaeve, Agnes Cobbum, Brit Griswold, Olivia Meyers**
-  Youth Fellowship: **Lowell Kardish West, Lois and Tom Lander, Cecilia Richardson, Christina Laukaitis, Bruce and Lori Bell, Sarah Balcer, Lizzie Storer, Melissa West Kardish, Julie Carlson, Jacob Hancock, Agnes Cobbum, Sondra McLemore, Jenn McDermott, Linda Barbour, Hilary Thompson, Pat Foye, Alison Barrat, Mary Stuart and Bryan Kempton, Jane and Jay Hudiburg, Tom Jett, Gwen Manseau, Mindy LeBlanc**
-  Nursery Reader: **Dorothy Hargrove**

Summer 2024



Vacation Bible School Has a New Look!

Join us for VBS August 19-21, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with a \$20 fee registration fee per child for daily lunch (scholarships are available).

Adult volunteers and youth junior counselors needed!
Email Miss Good.

Look for camper registration in the near future!

Mission

Lizi Schilder

Coats for Kids *(with Update from April Newsletter)*

The Center of Help was the largest recipient of coats this past year; the last of the coats was delivered in March. The center aids immigrant families with everything from learning English to finding jobs and housing. The center also provides forms for families to register children for free books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The center is grateful for our donation:

Dear Ms. Barbara [Hatchl],

On behalf of The Center of Help, I wanted to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of coats and books for the children. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will have a lasting impact on the children and families in our community. We are thrilled to continue signing up children to receive books monthly. We understand the challenges of the short supply, financial constraints, and the arrival of spring. We are looking forward to continuing this wonderful initiative next fall. Once again, Thank you so much for your support. It is because of generous individuals and organizations like yours that we are able to make a difference in many of our community families.

~ Warm regards, Natalia DiSpaldo

Czech Partnership

We are excited to announce that Aleš and Veronika Pomikalek, along with their three children (Andrei, 18, Daniela, 16, and Samuel, 13), from our partner church in Letohrad, Czech Republic, will visit Annapolis this summer (June 28-July 10), working on renewing the partnership agreement between our two churches and enjoying activities in the area. Aleš and Veronika look forward

to reconnecting with longtime friends and making new ones in our congregation. It will be their children's first trip to the US. Our church has been in relationship with the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCCB) Letohrad church since the late 1990s. The agreement outlines the ways we engage, support and pray for one another. The committee is setting up the schedule; the more engagement with our congregation, the better! To participate, email **Dianna Young** (dianna@diannayoung.com) or **Bill Hughes** (wLhughes1@verizon.net).

We are also pleased to have resumed a prayer exchange with our partner church. Shortly before Easter, we sent a prayer written by **Charles Hargrove** to Letohrad. We have just received the following greeting and prayer in return:

Many greetings from Letohrad parish. We have here now the most beautiful springtime. All nature is in bloom, new leaves in all shades of green. Hope you have a nice time too. This prayer is from Renata Popelarova (our church curator). Have a blessed Sunday! Veronika

Prayer: God of life and Father of light, you open a new age with the resurrection of your Son. In him the world knows what is your eternal will: What is old is becoming new, what is dark is turning light, what was dead rising to life. All will be made whole again in him who is the origin of all: Jesus Christ, your son, our brother and Lord, who lives with you in unity of the Holy Spirit and creates life forever and ever. Amen.

Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT)

We did it! After several months of organizing, we achieved three major victories in the Maryland state legislature this year! Thank you for all your hard work these past few months to make these victories happen. Every time you showed up to an advocacy day in Annapolis, emailed or called your legislators, and spread the word to your communities, it made a big difference. This was our first year doing a significant statewide campaign across ACT, AIM, and

PATH with our partners, and together we exercised strong political power to make our communities more equitable and livable. Thank you also to all of the wonderful non-profit partners we worked with to effectively advocate for these climate and housing bills. The session ended on April 8, and the state legislature passed these three bills we have supported:

1. **EmPOWER Reform (HB864)** will ensure that most of the \$350-million-per-year EmPOWER fund goes towards helping households and low-income apartment buildings make energy efficiency and electrification upgrades. It will help protect our families' health and the climate by reducing indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Housing Expansion & Affordability Act (HB538)** will allow and incentivize the construction of affordable housing within 0.75 miles of transit stations, on state land, and on all land owned by congregations or nonprofits.
3. **Renters' Rights & Housing Stabilization Act (HB693)** will raise the fee for landlords to file an eviction, which will provide renters some protection from being evicted for minor causes such as overdue rent. This bill was amended to allow landlords to deduct the fee from the renters' security deposit, but renters will not have to directly pay the fee. The revenue gained from the fee will go toward the rental voucher program and legal aid for tenants. The bill will also limit landlords from charging more than one month's rent as a security deposit when they move into a new home.

The fourth bill, Good Cause (formerly "Just Cause") Eviction, did not pass, but it progressed further than it ever has before; we will revisit working on it again next year. Governor Moore is signed some of the bills into law and will sign the Empower bill on May 9! To attend, email Cynthia (cynthia@actioninmontgomery.org). Then, join us to celebrate and discuss next steps as a statewide collective on May 9 at the "Statewide Action Team Meeting" at 7:00 pm with registration at <https://www.actaaco.org/events> (click on the "Calendar of Events," then select May 9).

May Birthdays (not listed online)



News of Members + Friends

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

Sue Greco - died 4/2/24 and was a member for 30 years, 1994-2024!

Baptisms: April 21: Sloane and Nicholas, children of Allen & Kelsey Black; May 5: **Evan Jallade**, son of member **Jill Ferris**; May 12: Nora Krone, grandchild of **Helen & Roger Krone**

Member **Jean Williamson** was recently featured in the National Erickson Senior Living publication, "Tribune." (For the full article, email Susan Gross.) Following are a few highlights: *Jean teaches*



Hatha yoga, based on building strength and focusing on breath. "My classes focus on relaxing, stretching, core strength, and balance." She was introduced to yoga 20 years ago while working as a nurse, and she began teaching it in 2012. She happily adapts

stretches and poses to ensure that everyone can reach their goals. "Residents who may not be able to do regular yoga can still participate," says Jean. "There are people who come to class for the first time and they are worried that they aren't flexible or that they may have issues that restrict them, but if they stick with it, they see a difference. Many people come back to me and say, 'This has made such a difference in my life.'"

Congrats to **Gerri Smith** on the birth of her great grandchild, Landon Skip Burke.



Table of Contents

Reporters
Editors

Members
Pastors, Chris West, Susan Gross

Contents

Cover 1

About Worship 2

PWC..... 5

Congregational Life 6

Family Ministry..... 8

Mission 10

Birthdays 13

News of Members..... 14

**June/July
Newsletter
Deadline:
May 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