



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 59, Issue 3, April 2019

UNITING IN SOLIDARITY FOR NEW ZEALAND

The Islamic Society of Cumberland (ISC) held a Service of Remembrance and Healing on Friday, March 22nd for the Muslims who were killed in the massacre in New Zealand on March 15th. The service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in LaVale. Islamic Society President, Dr. Bilal Itani and Rabbi Mark Perman, B'er Chayim Synagogue, coordinated the event.

As verses from the Holy Qur'an were sung in Arabic and translated in English, the Holy Spirit moved among us through the soulful, longing tones expressing the power of God's Word. Biographies for each of the 50 victims humanized the vibrant life that was tragically lost as the Muslims gathered peacefully for prayer. Daoud Nadi, 71, greeted the shooter as he entered the mosque with "As-Salaam-Alaikum," or "Peace be unto you, brother." He was the first to be shot to death. Mucad Ibrahim, 3, was the youngest to die. Before being killed, a woman said to the shooter that she forgave him and prayed for his soul. The story of each person was shared and how they had made an impact with their faith and their life.

Speakers from diverse faith traditions and community organizations created an atmosphere of healing and unity. In addition to hearing from Dr. Itani and Rabbi Perman, we clung to the sung, poetic and spoken words of Dr. Riyaz Janjua (ISC), Rev. Rebecca Vardiman (Retired clergy, U. M. Church and WMHS Chaplain), Mrs. Ellen McDaniel-Weissler (freelance writer) and Mrs. Joy Kroger-Mapples (Chair, Women's Action of Allegany County). As in New Zealand, everyone this night refused to memorialize the shooter's name.

The service united in solidarity the hearts of people from many traditions. Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Atheists and Agnostics filled the pews. It was good to be together – remembering each individual and how they mattered; healing through Word, prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit; and gathering without divisions as we took the bold stand that we are one.

FIRST THEY CAME for the Socialists,
And I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Socialist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Trade Unionists,
And I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Jews,
And I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Jew.

THEN THEY CAME for me –
And there was no one left to speak for me.

Martin Niemoller (1892 – 1984)

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Walt Peters served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the 2019 year to date Membership Record as of March 20, 2019.
- Approved year to date financials as of February 28, 2019.
- Approved the recommendation from Administration and Finance to open a general checking account at First United Bank for the First Presbyterian Church's general fund and after the transfer of the funds is complete to close the present checking account at BB & T.
- Approved the recommendation from Administration and Finance to open a general checking account at First United Bank for the First Presbyterian Church's Wills and Memorials fund and after the transfer of the funds is complete to close the present checking account at BB & T.
- Approved the recommendation from the Faith Formation and Congregational Care Committees for a program to be presented in Fellowship Hall on April 11 on Schubert's Mass in "A" Flat in anticipation of the Cumberland Choral Society's performance under the direction of Judie Brown of the work on May 18.
- Approved a letter of support to the Islamic Society of Cumberland in light of the shootings in New Zealand.
- Approved the recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to enter in an agreement with Allegheny Restorations Inc. to replace the mortar and seal stonework on exterior walls of the church for \$38,800 to be paid from Capital Improvements funds for 2019, which has an available balance of \$115,873.00.
- Approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee to hold an Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. at the church on Easter Sunday and that the starting time for the Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service be at 7:00 p.m.

In addition the Session heard:

- Brittany Jackson, church administrative assistant and Administration and Finance gave a briefing on the new eGiving software that is being implemented to facilitate the collection of contributions online, via text or mobile device.
- Laura Fiscus and Pam Jan are continuing to develop a mind/body skills class and continue to pursue their certification as instructors. Currently they anticipate introducing the program in the Fall.
- The next Milestone Ministry event will be the Easter Egg Milestone on April 20th and a Graduation Milestone is being planned.
- The Mission Committee will offer an invitation to Robert Gamble to visit and to provide an update on, "This Child Here", his ministry in the Ukraine.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

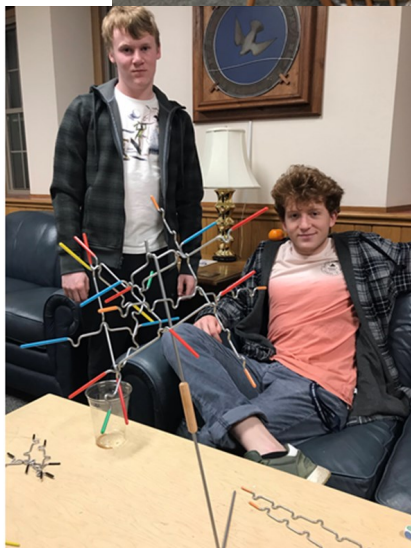
Your Interim Search Committee has been hard at work over the last few weeks. We have conducted Skype interviews, contacted references, and met with a candidate for our interim position. We hope to have something more definitive to report to the congregation in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers (and patience) as we prayerfully and carefully consider who God is leading us to in this next stage of our church life.

With gratitude for your support,

Your Interim Search Committee

Jeff Getty, Deb Hendrickson, Cathy Levitas, and David Stickler

GAME NIGHT FUN!



On Friday, March 22, the Congregation Care and Outreach Committee hosted a Game Night! Nine members and friends enjoyed a time of fun and fellowship!



Bill Workman	3-Apr
Chris Gallo	5-Apr
Nancy Hodges	14-Apr
Bob Kazary	14-Apr
Ann Kellermeyer	14-Apr
Gwen Harris	15-Apr
Mary Gallion	17-Apr
Brenda Luger	17-Apr
Dale Corley	22-Apr
Joyce Macy	25-Apr



Like us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

eGiving is coming soon to First Presbyterian Church

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

— DEUTERONOMY 16:17

BENEFITS FOR YOU:

1. Give from anywhere using a computer, tablet, or smartphone.
2. No need to find a check or stop by the ATM.
3. Use your Checking / Savings Account or your Debit / Credit Card.
4. Schedule gifts to occur automatically.
5. Give to one or more funds at any time.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR CHURCH:

1. Reduces administrative work allowing more time to focus on the ministry.
2. Helps streamline receivables.
3. Increases stewardship by providing members and guests easier ways to give.
4. More regular and predictable giving makes planning easier.



ONLINE

Soon you will be able to make a donation directly from our website.



TEXT

We will offer text giving which allows quick, easy, one-time donations.



MOBILE

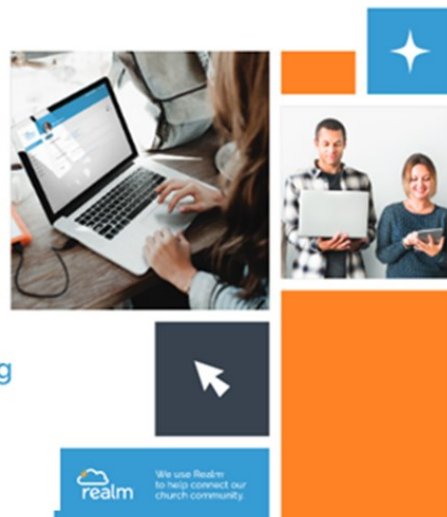
Giving will soon be available from inside our church's mobile app.

Let's be the church together... online.

- 🔍 Look up members in our church directory
- 👤 Update your personal information
- 💰 Give online - one time & recurring gifts
- 📄 View giving history & print giving statements
- 📅 Make & keep track of pledges

Sign up or sign in [at onrealm.org](https://onrealm.org)

Coming Soon!!

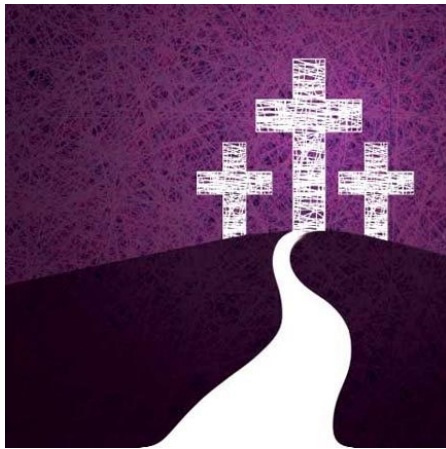


realm

We use Realm to help connect our church community.

During the first week of April, you will be receiving an e-mail invite to set up an account within ACS Realm as well as e-blasts with additional resources and support on how to use Realm and E-giving. This service is optional, but we encourage you to give it a try! Please contact the church office if you have any additional questions or if you would like assistance with creating your account.

LENTEN MINI STUDY SERIES



As we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter and the Cross, First Presbyterian Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Cumberland, in conjunction with the Cumberland Choral Society, will be offering an opportunity to join together for a two-part mini-series focusing on the Form of the Mass and the Schubert Mass in A Flat.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church will host the first of these gatherings on Thursday, April 4th, with First Presbyterian Church concluding the study the following Thursday, April 11th. Each study will begin with supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by a presentation at 6:45 p.m. As we prepare ourselves for the coming of Easter, please consider making time to join us for this exciting study.

EASTER EGG BLESSING MILESTONE



Join us on **Saturday, April 20th, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall for our Easter Egg Blessing. This is a Milestones Ministry Moment for young children, grandchildren, and any interested families and friends! We will start the morning with a breakfast potluck. We will provide drinks, plates, silverware, and ask that you bring a breakfast food to share. Activities will include a devotional, egg coloring, egg hunting, a blessing of the eggs, and the making of gifts for our home-bound friends.

WELLNESS NEWS

**Faith is the bird
that feels the light
when the dawn is still dark.**

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941)

Featured Article: Have a Glass Half-Full

Seeing the glass half-full has plenty of benefits. For instance, optimism has been linked to a decrease in the development of heart disease in men and it promotes happiness for everyone. However, it's not just seeing the glass half-full that's helpful; having a glass (or 16 half-full) is also extra juicy for the body and mental health.

As babies, we are born with about 75% water. We lose more and more water as we grow older. Dehydration has significant negative effects on heart health and concentration levels. Drinking more water is key for healthy body function, including the decrease of headaches and migraines and a way to improve overall mood.

Practice Tip: To avoid having to get up during the night, practice drinking water early in the day and throughout the afternoon. Have a glass of room temperature water to drink after waking up. If you dislike the taste of water, try flavoring it with raspberries, lemons or mint.

<https://www.doyouyoga.com>

To be connected to resources and health-related topics at WMHS, see Cheri Duncan

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



The Great Dakota Giveaway!

**Soup & Chili Rodeo, Live and
Silent Auction**

Sunday, April 28th at 12:30 PM

**Help us raise funds to send inspired volunteers to serve at a
summer learning camp for children in South Dakota**

Yes, I will come to support our volunteers and enjoy this fellowship and food event.
(All the food you can eat for only \$5 per person!)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____

I can donate the following items: _____

I can donate the following service to be auctioned (babysitting, car wash, consulting, teaching): _____

If you have any questions or if you would like to make a donation, please contact Robin Bissell at rbissell444@gmail.com.



Collecting Books Now Until Sunday, May 12th

Donations accepted at FPC!

Please bring your new or gently used reading books
for ages 4 to 15 years old!

They will be given away to Native American children of the Yankton Sioux Tribe in southeastern South Dakota this summer.

For questions or to arrange a pick up please contact Robin Bissell e-mail rbissell444@gmail.com.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 14-April 21

There are several special services planned for Holy Week. At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18th, there will be a Maundy Thursday communion service commemorating Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Then on Friday, April 19th there will be a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service that recalls Jesus' time on the cross. At 7:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning, there will be a Sunrise service which celebrates the discovery of the empty tomb as the sun came up. All of these services will be at the church, along with the regularly scheduled 11:00 a.m. worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Make plans now to be present as we continue to follow Jesus' final steps on our the Lenten journey.

***Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14th at 11:00AM at First Presbyterian Church**

***Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7:00PM at First Presbyterian Church**

***Good Friday, April 19th at 7:00PM at First Presbyterian Church**

***Egg Hunt/Blessing Milestone, April 20th at 10:00AM at First Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall)**

***Easter Sunday, April 21st Sunrise service at First Presbyterian Church at 7:00AM and a traditional service in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00AM**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter Sunday, our congregation will be contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, one of four special offerings sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. This Offering seeks to alleviate these conditions by the following programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. It receives 32% of funds raised.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. It receives 36% of funds raised.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. It receives 32% of funds raised.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.

EASTER FLOWERS 2019

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate your selection and total below. Please let us know whether you wish to take your flowers home, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. **Orders are due by Sunday, April 7th.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Lily	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
Tulips	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
Hyacinths	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
Chrysanthemums	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
Total		_____	\$_____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home _____ I would like to donate the flowers _____

Easter Music 2019

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

(Note: Special Music money may be given any time of the year.)

Special Music Contribution _____ \$ _____

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. This form must be returned to the church no later than **Sunday, April 14th** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

April

Address Service Requested

For God so loved the world, that he gave
his only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

