

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL KICKOFF

ROCKY GAP STATE PARK



SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
11:00 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
Welcome to the changing of the seasons.*

PRAYER

Holy one, Mother of Creation, Father of Life,
bless our gathering, that we may honor the rhythms of earth as witnesses to your extravagant love and
faithfulness. Amen

OPENING SONG

SING AND REJOICE

TRADITIONAL

① Sing and re - joi - ce,
Al - le - lu - ia,

② sing and re - joi - ce,
al - le - lu - ia,

③ let all things liv - ing now
peace and good - will to all,

④ sing and re - joi - ce!
peace and good - will!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

GENESIS 8:22

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

How have I seen the presence of God revealed this summer in my life?
In nature?

PRAYER

HOMILY

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG

MUSICAL REFLECTION

HOLD ME

PAUL VASILE

LED BY ERIC RINGLER

Hold me, hold me; never let me go;
Hold me tight, like the leaves on the branches.

When I die, when I die, let me fly, let me fly
like the leaves on the trees when they're falling.

RITUAL ACTION

*The congregation will put their symbols of Summer in an empty basket
and take a symbol of Fall from another basket.*

REFLECTION

What do I hope for as I enter this new season?
Name one thing from nature that will be your special reminder
of God's presence in the coming season.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*A HYMN OF PROMISE
SUNG BY CAROLYN MATTHEWS*

NATALIE SLEETH

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, how can we remember all your creation in this offering?

You have given us time and the seasons.

You have given us families and friends.

You have given us our family of the Church.

Accept our offering of love.

You give us the wonder and marvel of summer,
with the warmth and fun of faith.

You give us the color and change of autumn,
and cause us to see the need for change.

You give us the chill and rain of winter,
with time for us to sit and think.

You give us the new life and growth of springtime,
with the reminder of new life in Christ.

Creator God, Lord of the Universe,
accept our gifts and our lives that the world
and all people may praise your name. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE while we become aware of sights, sounds, smells and texture of the natural world.

PRAYER

BLESSING

May we trust that this season, like all others will bear witness to God's extravagant love and faithfulness. Amen

CLOSING SONG

I LOVE THE MOUNTAINS
LED BY CAROLYN MATTHEWS

TRADITIONAL

I love the mountains
I love the rolling hills
I love the flowers
I love the daffodils
I love the fireside

When all the lights are low

Boom dee ah dah. Boom dee ah dah.
Boom dee ah dah. Boom dee ah dah.
Boom dee ah dah. Boom dee ah dah.
Boom dee ah dah. Boom dee ah dah.

I love the ocean
I love the open sea
I love the forest
I love the bumblebees
I love the stars above
When night turns into day

I love the autumn
I love the falling leaves
I love the wind-blow
I love the chilly breeze
I love the seasons
As they come and go

Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
Liturgist.....David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musician.....Eric Ringler and Carolyn Mathews, Vocalist
Sound Technician.....Joe Aurigemma
Ushers.....Cathy Levitas and Carolyn Mathews

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **Sunday, September 15, 2019 immediately after worship**. The purpose of the meeting is to act on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect Bob Courtney to fill an unexpired term of Agnes Yount in the Session Class of 2020.

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

You are invited to attend the following congregational events as we begin our transition process.

A Time of Historical Remembrances: Sunday, September 22nd following worship in the Fellowship Hall

This two-hour congregational event focuses on what has occurred in the life of First Presbyterian Church over the years and decades. More than simply listing such things, participants share memories and what these say about our life together as a church and what's important to us. These are key elements to keep in mind as we move through our transition time.

A Time of Appreciative Inquiry: Sunday, September 29th following worship in the Fellowship Hall

This two-hour event provides an opportunity for us to share with one another what we like and really appreciate about First Presbyterian Church. Participants will 'interview' one another asking a series of questions such as 'what attracted you to our church', 'what are the particular characteristics of our congregation that are most valuable' and 'when we are at our best, how do we express God's love to others?' The responses will help everyone to perceive First Presbyterian's greatest strengths and what we want to build on as we move through this transition time.