

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY OCTOBER 16, 2022 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE (ST. FRANCIS)  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SEBASTIAN TEMPLE ARR. L. LARSON

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

WHEN WE ARE TESTED  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"ANGELS OF HEALING"

When we are tested and wrestle alone,  
famished for bread when the world offers stone.  
Nourish us, god, by your word and your way,  
Food that sustains us by night and by day.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
Sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Saviour surround us with circles of care,  
Angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.**

I have more understanding, for your decrees are always on my mind.

**I understand more and more each day. How sweet are your words to my lips.**

Continue this good work in me;

**May we be ever grateful.**

Let us pray -

**Righteous One of all generations, how glorious is your name. You speak and worlds are created; you establish the boundaries of the seas and the land. Your countenance illumines the heavens above. Your righteousness is known throughout all the earth. We live by your mercy and depend on your blessings; we give you all of our praise. Amen.**

\* HYMN #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

"ST. DENIO"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have failed in our ministry to others. We listen for teachings to our own liking. We yearn for doctrines the boost our egos. We follow those who flatter us. We seek comfort and not challenge from our confessions of faith. Renew a right spirit within us, O God, and train us in righteousness as you forgive our sin. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #698

TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM

“TAKE ME AS I AM”

Take, O take me as I am; summon what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

ANTHEM

PEACE

MARTIN J. WIMMER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR, BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

If there is light in the soul there will be beauty in the person.  
 If there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the house  
 Peace, peace, grant us peace.  
 Dona nobis pacem.

If there is harmony in the house there will be order in the nation.  
 If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.  
 Peace, peace, grant us peace.  
 Dona nobis pacem.

SECOND READING

LUKE 18:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

SERMON

“CONSTANT IN PRAYER”

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #175

SEEK YE FIRST

“LAFFERTY”

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:

KATHY GETTY

“FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD IS RIGHT AND TRUE; HE IS FAITHFUL IN ALL HE DOES.”-PSALM 33:4

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

TO THE HILLS I LIFT MY EYES  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN  
(reflective text)

“NA-UI DO-UM”

To the hills I lift my eyes longing to know where,  
O where will my help come from?  
Where, O where?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
God the Creator will keep my life.  
God is my help.

\* DOXOLOGY #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (VS. 1)

“BEACH SPRING”

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature’s wonder,  
Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise, thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON - LITANY OF DEDICATION:

Leader: The word of the Lord is right and true.  
**People: God is faithful in everything!**  
Leader: The Lord loves righteousness and justice.  
**People: The earth is full of God’s unfailing love!**  
Leader: We offer these gifts to the work God is doing.  
**People: We will trust in the promises of God. Amen!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\* HYMN #645

SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

“MIT FREUDEN ZARTS”

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION# 306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

“SUO GAN”

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**  
**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

VOLUNTARY IN A  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM SELBY (1738-1798)

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

### This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Alison Peters  
Liturgist.....Wesley Mason  
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir & Brenda Luger, Flute  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Mike & Cathy Levitas

**PASTOR ALISON'S AVAILABILITY:** Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

**Ways to contact Pastor Alison:**

call, text, or email:

814-715-1681 / [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

To help with scheduling, please reach out to the Church Office:

Brittany Jackson: 301-777-3700 [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)

**A NEIGHBORLY MASK POLICY:** Masks may be worn as needed. We respect everyone's decision to protect their own health as needed. As good neighbors, we honor each individual's choice and will respect each other.

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:** If anyone is interested in helping with the visual advertisement of the church, please email the church office at [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com).

## OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries .....	Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....	Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....	Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....	Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....	Eric Ringler

## SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CLERK OF SESSION

Carolyn Mathews

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Gary Hendrickson

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Susan Mills

### FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

### MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

## VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a “Big Tent Church” where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshippers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God’s youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. “Jesus said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it’” (Mark 10:14-15).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

### RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of October 2, 2022
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$202,976.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 31,100.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$171,876.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$135,201.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$132,289.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,911.00

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH**  
**RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON**

**THE HIGHLANDER** will meet on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 o'clock noon at City Lights downstairs. The Highlanders are a social group for our senior members that meet once a month, typically the third Thursday of every month, to fellowship with one another over lunch. Please contact Jan Layman (301-724-2641) or Betty Richtmeyer (301-759-4108), if you would like to come join them.

**FAITH FORMATION**  
**RULING ELDERS: JOSH GILHART & KATIE ROSS**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM as we explore the Psalms and other lectionary scriptures together in our weekly adult Sunday School program. Learn, grow, and develop relationships with your sisters and brothers in Christ.

**THE FRANCISCAN WAY STUDY:** Join Rev. Martha McGill & Rev. Alison Peters on Thursday evenings at 5:30 PM (October 13<sup>th</sup>-November 17<sup>th</sup>) in the Gathering Place at First Presbyterian Church for this 6 week study to learn more about spiritual practices for living with hope in a troubled world.

**MISSION**  
**RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & BRENDA LUGER**

**UNION RESCUE MISSION DONATIONS ACCEPTED:** If you would like to give directly to the Union Rescue Mission during offering time, please denote this on your check or envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail to church. We will make sure your donation goes to where you want it to.

**CHURCHES ON THE HILL**

**NATURE'S GRACE - WALKS WITH THE GLORY OF GOD'S CREATION:** Come and enjoy the fall beauty! Bob Adams and Jack Slocomb invite you to walk with them on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM when we will gather at Canal Place for an amble along the TowPath to a grassy "sit spot" near the river. Naturalist Jack will answer questions about the fall flora and fauna and lead a relaxing Creation attunement experience.

Dress for the weather and bring water and a snack if you want. The total length of the walk will be about 4 ½ miles. But walk as far as you are comfortable.

It's not really the distance, it's what you see, hear, smell, and feel in the good company of fellow walkers during the time you are there.

Autumn is a compelling time of year in mountain Maryland – the many indescribable hues of trees, the northwesterly winds brushing over the landscape, bringing the nip of winter, everything going into rest, into repose, the silences. And much, much more. All great stuff to share mindfully and joyfully with friends on the Lord's day as the season moves forward through the autumn equinox.

We respectfully request that you turn your cell phones off during the walk. If you want to join, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or call Brittany in the church office. For any questions, you can contact Jack at 301-707-9545 or Bob at 410-669-1953.



JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

**Saturday, October 29th**

**10:30 AM– 12:30 PM**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**TRUNK OR TREAT PARTICIPATION:** If you would like to set up a car in the parking lot and participate in the event, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the entrance hallway!

**CANDY DONATIONS:** If you would like to donate candy for the event, feel free to drop all candy donations off to the church office by Wednesday, October 26th.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY, OCTOBER (17)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL IN THE GATHERING PLACE

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER (18)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING IN REV. PETERS OFFICE  
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING IN THE GATHERING PLACE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
12:30 PM WEST SIDE HUNTERS POWERHOUSE SUB PICK UP IN THE GATHERING PLACE

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER (22)

10:00 AM PEO MEETING & GUEST SPEAKER IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER (23)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY