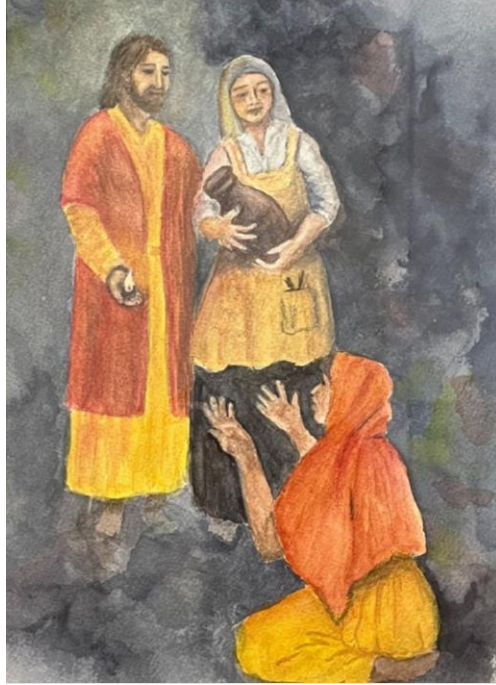


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



-Bulletin Artwork created by Robin Bissell

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

BRIGHTLY BEAMS
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JASON TONIOLI
ARR. J. BROWN

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

MARY AND MARTHA
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

SPIRITUAL

Mary and Martha just gone long to ring those charming bells.
Crying free grace and dying love to those charming bells
Oh! Way over Jordan Lord to ring those charming bells.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The story of God's redemption began long ago.

In the beginning, God created the world and it was good.

The story of God's redemption weaves through stories.

Stories of women and men who lived their lives in faithfulness.

The story of God's redemption is revealed in the coming of Christ.

We watch and wait for his appearance.

The story of God's redemption has a place for us -

We are God's chosen family, and we have a place in the story.

Let us pray -

God of all generations - we trust in your abiding presence as we travel together through this season of Advent. May our attention be on you. May our hearts hear messages of hope and promise, as we encounter your beloved family along the way. Be with us in the waiting so that we might experience your joy and peace. Amen.

* HYMN #2

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

"ITALIAN HYMN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (Verse 2)

"VENI EMMANUEL"

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

DUET

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

"DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"

LAUREL PLITNIK, SOPRANO; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ARR. DAVID HUNTSINGER

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see.
Evermore an evermore.

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel host, His praises sing:
Powr's dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King:
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore.

Alleluia, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us
And we behold His glory!
Christ to Thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory and dominion and eternal victory,
Evermore.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴²but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

SERMON

GOD’S CHOSEN FAMILY: MARY & MARTHA
"FRIENDSHIP"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #771

WHAT IS THE WORLD LIKE

“VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

CAROL OF THE BELLS
ALLELUIA, HE COMES TO US
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. DEWALT
ARR. MICHAEL R. KELLER

* DOXOLOGY #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (Verse 7)

“VENI EMMANUEL”

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #102

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

“NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND”

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION (Verse 1)

From generation to generation, we have shared the Christmas story of a baby in a manger, who was born in Bethlehem. Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, joy we’re singing, Love he’s bringing. There is room for eve’ry story. There is hope through God’s great glory.

POSTLUDE

LO! HE COMES!
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. JACOB B. WEBER

* 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.....Katie Ross
- Advent Wreath Lighters.....The Corley Family
- Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
- Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
- Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells; Laurel Plitnik, Soprano; Joshua Ruppenkamp, Tenor
- Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
- Ushers.....Cindy Corley & David Stickler

This December is 40 years since three octaves of glistening Malmark handbells were opened and rung, a gift from church members Bill and Ruth Ludman, Through special gifts over the years, our bells have expanded to 5 octaves and about 2 decades ago, the Ludman's daughter, Dorothy Malcolm, gave us the gift of 3 octaves of Malmark Handchimes. Through much dedication and the grace of God, we have used and enjoyed these instruments every year since 1982. I pray that the JOY of ringing will continue in our church family for the years to come. Julie Courtney, Director of the JoyBells

ORGAN DEDICATION: Join us next Sunday, December 18th as we celebrate the dedication of our organ during worship! First Presbyterian not only has a new updated organ console but also some enhanced organ stops to add to its majestic sound. Our King of Instruments is not only used as a solo instrument but also as one that is an ensemble instrument with choral, vocal and instrumental groups. These ORGAN PLUS duties will all be highlighted during our worship service on the 18th as we dedicate our new organ console with extended special music. Advent selections will include: *In Dulci Jubilo* by J.S. Bach, *Toccata* by David Hegarty, *2 movements from "Magnificat"* by Taylor Scott Davis, *Fantasia on "Greensleaves"* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, *O Come O Come Emmanuel* Arr. by L. Stirling. **A cookie and punch reception will be held in The Gathering Place following worship.** *Special thanks and appreciation for the generous support to the Belt family and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church which made the purchase of the new console possible!*

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.

-Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

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 worshipers 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 and 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: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of thier parents, William and Doris Adkisson and Carl and Edna Belt, by Carl and Jane Belt. 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.

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

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

Brittany Jackson: 301-777-3700 firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 4, 2022
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$202,976.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 31,100.00
2021 Pledge Balance Promised	<u>\$171,876.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$169,318.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$162,054.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,263.00

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2023 are available in the pews and in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were dedicated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

2022 YEAR END GIVING: Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2022. Remember that year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Thursday, December 29th in order to qualify as 2022 contributions for tax purposes.

BUILDING & GROUNDS
RULING ELDERS: BOB COURTNEY & EVAN SWANGER

FPC SNOW POLICY

Sunday School – The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 AM. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, Facebook, and the church website.

Worship – Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Next Sunday, December 18th, our congregation will give to the **Christmas Joy Offering**. In the spirit of the season, this offering is focused on supporting the work and the development of the church. The funds are split between Board of Pensions assisting clergy and other church workers and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please consider donating to this Special Offering.

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS: Join Mountainside Baroque for a Service of Lessons & Carol next Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: For many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to deal with those feelings and still feel surrounded by the love of God. **Join us on Wednesday, December 21st at 5:30 PM for a time of prayer, reflective music and candle lighting as we claim the promise of our faith this season.**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE: Join us at 7:30 PM for a Christmas Prelude followed by our Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 PM. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 23, 2022 & Monday, December 26, 2022- CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27, 2022- Brittany Remote

Wednesday, December 28, 2022- Office open for the day

Thursday, December 29, 2022- Office open until Noon

Friday, December 30, 2022 & Monday, January 2, 2022- CLOSED

Christmas Poinsettias 2022

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **TODAY**.

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:30PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$7.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA".

Number of poinsettias: _____ at \$7.00 each **Total \$** _____

I will pick up my poinsettia:

I wish to donate my poinsettia:

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ _____ **Total \$** _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** (Please circle one) of: _____

By: _____

Please return your order no later than TODAY.

Christmas Music Offering 2022

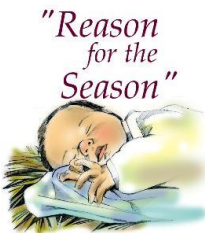
NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) _____

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

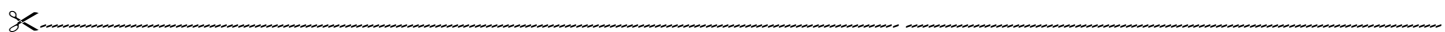
Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2022" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than next Sunday, December 18th.**



What would the wish list be for some of the people in the countries where we support a mission? What might their wish lists look like...?

- ❖ For “our” 7 students (and maybe more?) in **PAKISTAN**, the opportunity to continue their schooling another year through **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB)**. Veda Gill believes that education is the key to reform in Pakistan. www.friendsofpeb.org
- ❖ Many more students in Punjab Province are wishing for the excellent education they could receive at **KINNARD ACADEMY**, one of **PEB’s** 25 schools, if only there were classrooms for them. An extension to Kinnard is Veda’s dream also.
- ❖ In **UKRAINE**, something as simple as money for groceries or rent, a chance to do normal things while being a refugee in another country. Your gifts support Dr. Robert Gamble’s “**This Child Here**” ministry. www.thischildhere.org
- ❖ At **QHOLAQHOE** in **LESOTHO**, Thabang Coza is a very humble boy and a double orphan, taken care of by his uncle and aunt. Lynn Minderman says he has a good chance to attend college next year, if he has a scholarship through **Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections**. <https://qmconnect.org>
- ❖ In **CUMBERLAND**, it’s a wish for help in escaping an abusive relationship, or to be safe in a loving family. **Family Crisis Resource Center** offers emergency shelter, food, clothing, and counseling.
- ❖ Also in **CUMBERLAND**, unfortunately, families with empty cupboards wish for a basic necessity, food. The **Western MD Food Bank** can be a resource, but only if they have enough food on the shelves.
- ❖ A committee in **CUMBERLAND** is working to start a **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** where everyone can eat with dignity in a restaurant environment, paying what they can afford. Top on their list is start-up funds.
- ❖ **Other:** You may also donate to **Mulanji Hospital, Malawi; Dakota Learning Camp, SD; Nepali orphanage; Interfaith Food Pantry;** etc. Please indicate your preference below.

Contact Linda Smith or view the bulletin boards in the hall for additional information on the organizations listed above that you have the opportunity to support this season.



REASON FOR THE SEASON 2022

Name : _____ Phone: _____

Please make your total amount payable to “First Presbyterian Church”, and marked “Reason for the Season”.

Presbyterian Ed. Bd. (Pakistan)-scholarships	\$ _____
Kinnard Academy (Pakistan)- classroom extension	\$ _____
“This Child Here” (Ukraine)- refugee supplies	\$ _____
Q Mountain (Lesotho) – college scholarship	\$ _____
Family Crisis Resource Center (Cumberland)	\$ _____
Western MD Food Bank (Cumberland)	\$ _____
Community Cafe –(Cumberland)	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
SESSION OPEN HOUSE AT REV. PETERS HOME

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (13)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (14)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM STAFF LUNCHEON AT REV. ALISON'S HOME
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (15)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (16)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (17)

3:00 PM SHIRLEY GIARRITTA CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (18)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ORGAN DEDICATION
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING COLLECTION
5:00 PM MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE: SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS AT EMMANUEL