

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



*-Bulletin Artwork created by Melissa Courtney*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE

DECEMBER 18, 2022

11:00 AM

#### OPENING VOLUNTARIES

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES

PETR SKOPEK, ANDERSON LACEROLA, VIOLINS; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

TRADITIONAL CAROL ARR. DAVID NEVUE

"VENI EMMANUEL" ARR. L. STIRLING

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

11:00 AM

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### INTROIT

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"ES IST EIN ROS" ARR. L. SMITH

#### \* 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.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ZACH, MIKAYLA & ARIA DODGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Advent God, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor,  
 we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate.  
 We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.  
 Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the  
 ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will. 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 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM

MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA (“MAGNIFICAT”)

TAYLOR SCOTT DAVIS

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; PETR SKOPEK, ANDERSON LACEROLA, VIOLINS; YISYONG YANG, VIOLA;  
 COLE BEDWAY, CELLO; BART LAY, PERCUSSION; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
 Because He hath looked down on the lowliness of His handmaid;  
 For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.  
 Because the Mighty One hath done great things for me:  
 And holy is His name.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:26-56

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; <sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." <sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

SERMON

GOD'S CHOSEN FAMILY: MARY MOTHER OF JESUS  
"LOVE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #123

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

"CAROL"

ORGAN DEDICATION

Pastor: We present this organ for service to the glory of almighty God and for service in this congregation -

People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work; at the works of your hands we sing for joy!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

SHALL I REJOICE ("MAGNIFICAT")

TAYLOR SCOTT DAVIS

LAUREL PLITNIK, ALISON PETERS, MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANOS; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE;  
PETR SKOPEK, ANDERSON LACEROLA, VIOLINS; YISYONG YANG, VIOLA; COLE BEDWAY, CELLO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, the first of such to say?  
All that the child shall ever say or be now lives and grows in me.  
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, his name forever mine?  
I yield to him my life's identity;  
Christ lives and grows in me.  
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me; both glory and disgrace?  
My song shall be both joy and agony.  
Christ lives and grows in me.

\* 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 #141

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

"PERSONET HODIE"

\* 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**

IN DULCI JUBILO (BWV 729)  
TOCCATA CON FUOCO (TOCCATA WITH FIRE)  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

J. S. BACH (1685-1750)  
DAVID HEGARTY

*(Please remain seated and allow both pieces to play before applause.)*

Following the service, join us for cookies and punch in the Gathering Place to celebrate our new organ console.

\* 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.....Sharon Kazary  
Advent Wreath Lighters.....The Dodge Family  
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge, Laurel Plitnik, & Rev. Alison Peters, Sopranos  
.....Joshua Ruppenkamp, Tenor; Zach Dodge, Baritone; Cole Bedway, Cello  
.....Petr Skopek & Anderson Lacerola, Violin; Bart Lay, Percussion; Yisyong Yang, Viola  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....The Kellermeyer Family

Today, 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. *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!*

**SPECIAL THANKS TO DEB MULLAN** for creating a new bow and ribbons to adorn our beautiful Christmas wreath in the front of the sanctuary and for making new bows to match for the choir loft railing.

### 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

### 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

# 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

## 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 worshiping 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](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.

**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)

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

**RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON**

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	as of December 11, 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	\$171,788.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$165,361.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 6,426.00

**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.

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Today 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 Assistance Program provides critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, as well as income and housing supplements for retired church workers. Supporting our clergy in their retirement years provides them a needed benefit and is one way we can give thanks for their devotion to the church. Please consider donating to this Special Offering.

**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS:** Join Mountainside Baroque for a Service of Lessons & Carol this evening 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**

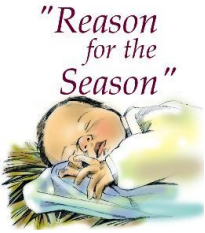
Friday, December 23, 2022 & Monday, December 26, 2022- CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27, 2022- Brittany Remote

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

Thursday, December 29, 2022- Office open until Noon

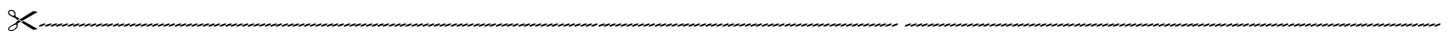
Friday, December 30, 2022 & Monday, January 2, 2022- CLOSED



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](http://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](http://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 _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

# 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 TODAY.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY, DECEMBER (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

5:00 PM LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

6:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER (23)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER (24)

7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE

8:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER (25)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE