

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



-Bulletin Artwork created by Josh Gilhart

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

AIR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL WESLEY

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

DOWN GALILEE'S SLOW ROADWAYS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"WEST MAIN"

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe and salve,
but there within the river, the sign was birth and grave.
We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The story of God's redemption began long ago.

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 celebrate 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 continue to venture with family on this sacred Christmas journey that leads to a bigger story. As we wade in the waters with John, may our attention be on you. May our hearts find your peace and love. Be with us as we celebrate and remember our baptism with joy. Amen.

* HYMN #96

OH JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

"WINCHESTER NEW"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you have given us Christ as a covenant to the nations, yet your people continue to live at war. Your prophets proclaim justice and peace, yet we dwell amid hostility and oppression. You judge your people with fairness; we implore you to have mercy upon us. Give sight to eyes that are blind to your truth. Enlighten our darkness, that we may behold you even in the midst of our enemies. Free us from seeking our own grandeur, so that in humility we may live at peace with your people. 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

ISAIAH 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

ANTHEM

CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"CAITHNESS" FROM ENGLISH HYMNAL

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove and as urgent as a flame.
God called you his beloved son, called you his servant true
Sent you his kingdom to proclaim, his holy will to do.
Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed his call
Freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all
Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed

That likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 3:1-17

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

SERMON

GOD'S CHOSEN FAMILY: JOHN THE BAPTIST
"PREPARATION"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #618

O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH

"DEO GRACIAS"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

GAVOTTE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL WESLEY

* 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #757

TODAY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES

"KINGSFOLD"

* 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

KINGSFOLD
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* 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.....Mike Levitas
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell & Evan Swanger

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music MinistriesJudith 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 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 Gory of God in loving memory **Art and Jean Ennis, Al and Anna May Kazary, and Lee Ennis Rosenblath, by Bob and Sharon Kazary.** 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

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION: We will host a Mental Health First Aid Training on **Sunday, January 22nd (12:30 PM-5:30 PM)**. This course will teach you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. The class is limited to 15 participants and will require about 2 hours of self-paced online pre-work. **If you are interested in this training, please use the sign-up link in the weekly email update or call the church office.**

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of January 1, 2023
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$219,660.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,282.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$206,377.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$7,107.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$3,893.00
Over/(Under)	\$3,213.00

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH
RULING ELDERS: MIKAYLA DODGE & SUSAN MILLS

THE HIGHLANDERS: Due to the unpredictable weather in the months of January and February, the Highlanders will not meet for lunch during those two months. The next lunch will be held in March on the third Thursday of the month. More details will be given at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Gallion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, JANUARY (9)
ANNUAL REPORT DUE DATE

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING IN THE PARLOR

TUESDAY, JANUARY (10)

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING IN REV. PETERS' OFFICE
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY (13)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JANUARY (14)

10:00 AM PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY (15)

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