

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*DUST TO DUST*  
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

MASASHI HAMAUZU

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS*  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"HEINLEIN"

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.  
So shall we have peace divine; holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.

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

We gather together to worship God.

**We gather together as one community.**

We gather around the table.

**A table where we are invited as guests.**

You've got a place at this table.

**We all have a place at this table.**

We'll feast on bread, milk, and honey.

**We'll give thanks.**

We'll find something unexpected

**Here in this place we will find grace, for God's love never fails.**

Let us pray -

God, you are full of surprises. Just when we think we have you figured out, you show us something new. As we journey through the Lenten season, unfold your mysteries for us. Help us to focus on you and experience your grace. Be with us as we worship together. Amen.

### \* HYMN #49

*THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE*

"LEONI"

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you know our hearts. You have knit our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears, and worries. You know where we fall short.

Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. When we think we can do it by ourselves, stay near us. When we are so proud of what we have done, remind us to remain humble. When we become too focused on our own needs, reveal the needs of our neighbors so that we might help others. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

## RESPONSE #341

O GOD, SHOW MERCY TO US (Verse 1)

“THAXTED”

O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace; and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face, so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known, and unto every people your saving grace be shown. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing; in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.*

*We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

PSALM 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.<sup>2</sup> Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.<sup>3</sup> While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*<sup>6</sup> Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. <sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. <sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## ANTHEM

SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS

SCHMUCKE DICH

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.  
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render.  
Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;  
Christ though heavenly, high, and holy deigns to dwell with you most lowly.  
Sun who all my life does brighten; light, who does my soul enlighten;  
Joy, your wondrous gift bestowing; fount, from which all good is flowing;  
At your feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, your glory given.  
Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, truest friend and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding, joy into all life expanding;  
Humbly now, I bow before you, love incarnate, I adore you;  
Worthily let me receive you and, so favored never leave you.

## SECOND READING

GENESIS 18:1-15

<sup>18</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have

said.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

SERMON

“A VISIT”

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #663

AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN

“MORNING HYMN”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

CHEREPONI  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

GHANIAN FOLK MELODY

\* DOXOLOGY

The rice of life from heaven came to bring true life from God above.  
Receive this gift; God’s mercy claim; in joy and pain give thanks for love.

\* 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 #546

LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

“SICILIAN MARINERS”

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #542 GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN (Verse 2)

“GOD BE WITH YOU”

God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,  
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

HERZLIEBSTER JESU  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHANN CRUGER, 1640

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\* 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..... Cathy Levitas  
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Brenda & Betty Luger

**LENT: This year's theme is "Tables and Grace"** which allows us to take a look at stories and parables about food. Tables are places we come to be filled up and places where we gather in community. Let us come to tables traditional and obscure ready to see where God's grace is breaking in! **If you want to contribute to our theme, share a table setting from your home. We will use these in the upcoming weeks to set the communion table for God's feast! Table settings will be returned to you by April 2nd so they are ready for your Easter Dinner!**

## 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

## 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.

**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>	<b>as of February 12, 2023</b>
Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$219,970.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,282.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$206,688.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$27,717.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$27,292.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 424.00

**FAITH FORMATION**

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

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Building or Renewing Your Own Spiritual Practice with the Rev. Martha Macgill**  
**Join us on Sundays in Lent beginning this morning at 10:00 AM in the Dakota Room.**

Have you always wanted to have a regular spiritual practice? Some of us have long-standing ways to find time with God each day. Some of us have tried to carve out a space for prayer and found it hard to sustain. Some of us aren't sure where to begin. Wherever you are in your walk with God, Lent is an excellent time to begin, re-examine or renew your prayer life. *There is no one right way to form a personal spiritual practice*, but there are long-standing guidelines that have proven the test of time. Our class together will bring together traditional essentials of a spiritual practice such as meditating on Scripture and intercessory prayer as well as popular methods of doing this like lectio divina, Ignatian imaging, centering prayer and spiritual direction. There will be time to share what has worked for each of us and where we get stuck. Since every person's practice is unique to them and their life at present, the course will include a workbook for each participant to piece together a personal spiritual practice in Lent to continue throughout the year.

**LENT BIBLE STUDY:** Join Pastor Alison Peters on Thursday Nights at 5:45 PM for a study, utilizing the book "Meeting Jesus at the Table." This study will take place from March 2nd - March 30th. Please sign up to receive a copy of the book. You can RSVP online using the QR Code or by tearing off the slip below and placing it in the offering plate. Please sign up no later than February 28th.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**DR. ROSANN CATALANO WEEKEND RETREAT:** We are excited to welcome back Dr. Catalano for a short weekend retreat on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. This study will explore biblical characters and their life altering moments. A knowledgeable and thought-provoking lecturer, Dr. Catalano is sure to spark new insight into these familiar characters.

**EASTER EGG BLESSING:** Join us on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship hall for our annual Easter Egg Blessing where children can celebrate and learn about the Easter story.

**SHROVE TUESDAY INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT:** On Tuesday, February 21st, approximately forty people of all ages joined together for an evening of fellowship and fun. We enjoyed a dinner of pancakes and sausages along with a special surprise birthday cake! Everyone had the opportunity to decorate their own Mardi Gras mask and join in a group picture. A special thanks to the host of the evening, Julie Courtney, and the head pancake chef, Bob Courtney! Pastor Alison provided a micro-lesson about Shrove Tuesday and the season of Lent and encouraged people to think of things they can give up or perhaps give during this season. And on the topic of Giving, SEVENTEEN bags of clothing were collected and donated to The Possibility Shop, a service of AHEC West. The Possibility Shop connects people to information, services and resources in the area by bringing multiple services and agencies to their location. The Shop helps people with health insurance, housing, clothes, food, cell phones, prescriptions, tax preparation, replacing lost documents, and more. The Faith Formation committee would like to extend a huge thanks to everyone for their generous donations!

## MISSION

RULING ELDERS: BRENDA LUGER & AARON HENDRICKSON

**SOUTH DAKOTA SOUP:** There are additional quarts and pints of soup leftover from the South Dakota Soup Sale in the basement freezer that is now available for a discounted rate. **Quarts are available for \$8.00 and pints are available for \$5.00. Please see Aaron Hendrickson today if you would like to purchase any soup.**

### HANDS-ON MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

You can participate in the city's annual *Let's Beautify Cumberland/Day of Caring and Sharing Campaign*. This is a 'hands-on' event where community businesses and organizations organize teams to complete various assigned tasks throughout the city. The city supplies the materials, we use our hands to make a difference.

The Mission Committee is working to expand our giving and encourage involvement, that's where you come in. Please prayerfully consider joining a team from our church volunteering during *Let's Beautify Cumberland* in May.

*Yes, I would consider representing our church on a work crew for Let's Beautify Cumberland in May* (more information to come)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please place this form in the collection plate or place it in the Mission mailbox)

**CZECH PARTNERSHIP NEWS:** The 5th ECCB -PCUSA Virtual Conference, **THE CHURCH AND ENVIRONMENT**, will be held on **Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM EST.**

Speakers include Valerie Frey, Dr. William P. Brown, Dr. Jan Zámečník, Rev. Bruce Gillette and Iлона Mužátková. Moderated by Dr. Petr Sláma. An opportunity for questions, and discussion groups in breakout "rooms" will follow. No pre-registration needed. Join at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>.

The **CZECH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE**, "**Together on the Way**", will be held in Olomouc, Czech Republic **from July 9-13, 2023**, with an optional pilgrimage/tour following the conference. Members from U.S. and Czech partner churches are encouraged to attend for a time of share our faith and practice, learn from each other, and meet new and old friends, to explore the life of the church in Czech Republic and the USA, to pray and sing together, to be enriched by our differences and to experience our unity in Jesus Christ. This is a great time to visit our partners in the Vsetín, Czech Republic. The theme is Youth. Anyone, all ages, are invited.

See the website: [czechpres.net](http://czechpres.net) for more information (go to "Home", then "Conferences" at the bottom of the list, and "more information here"). Or contact Georgene McKenzie or Linda Smith. They have attended several of these Conferences and highly recommend it!

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

RULING ELDERS: SHARON KAZARY & MIKE LEVITAS

CONTEMPLATIVE LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE: Join us at 5:00 PM on Sunday evenings beginning this evening-March 26th as we have a less structured worship service in our chapel. This is for anyone who desires SPACE to slow down and listen for God this Lenten season. Following the service, there will be an opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

### Join FPC for our Holy Week Services!

\*PALM/PASSION SUNDAY- APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

11:00 AM Traditional Service at First Presbyterian

\*MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>

6:30 PM at First Presbyterian

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 9TH

SUNRISE SERVICE at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

### CHURCHES ON THE HILL LENTEN WORSHIP

We will join this Lent with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran for joint worship services:

Palm Sunday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) - Palm Procession at 10:30 AM on the Library Steps

Good Friday (April 7<sup>th</sup>) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12: 00 PM (final details to come later)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY (27)

8:30 AM BRITTANY OUT OF THE OFFICE  
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (28)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
6:30 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK NIGHT

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH (1)

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, MARCH (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:45 PM MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE: BIBLE STUDY IN THE GATHERING PLACE

#### FRIDAY, MARCH (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### SATURDAY, MARCH (4)

#### SUNDAY, MARCH (5)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE: SPACE



**BATTER UP!** Our congregation has been invited to join a Church Softball League this summer. And we need to know if you are interested in joining our team! Please email Rev. Alison if you or someone you know would like to be a part of our team.