

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 12, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

BAPTIZED IN WATER
JUDITH BROWN, ORAGN

"BUNESSAN" ARR. ERVIN MONROE

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

BLESSING TO GOD, FOREVER BLEST
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

RICHARD SHEPHARD

Blessing to God, forever blest to God the Master of the feast
Who hath for us a table spread, and with his daily bounties fed;
May he with all his gifts impart the crown of all a thankful heart.

* 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 #400

I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY

"ENGLAND"

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 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

² Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴ To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.”

⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

ANTHEM

SMILES AND TEARS

KEIICHI SUZUKI AND HIROKAZU “HIP” TANAKA

CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST’S SERVICE

JOHN ZUNDEL

THE JOYBELLS

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting^[bl] with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

SERMON

“A DIFFERENT CONGREGATION”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #479

HO, ALL WHO THIRST

“JACOB’S WELL”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION

“CRASHING WATERS”

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit’s breath,
First to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death.
Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,

Washing off the chains of bondage; Channel to a life made new.
Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.
Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul
Wellspring source of life eternal, drench our dryness; make us whole.

* 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

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

CINDY CORLEY, MIKAYLA DODGE, SHARON KAZARY, & ANN KELLERMEYER (CLASS OF 2026)

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE AND STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

DECLARATION

WELCOME

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 #399

GOD WELCOMES ALL

"THEMBA AMEN"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

God calls us in, just as we are;
God's love is wide and it spreads so far.

God sends us out, ready to serve;
God's love comes free and is undeserved.

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

* 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

JACOB'S WELL
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.....	David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries.....	Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....	Julie Courtney
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir & The JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Kathy Dowell & Sharon Squires

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of First Presbyterian church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **Sunday, March 26, 23**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Linda Mellon to serve in the 2026 Ruling Elder Class.

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 worshiping 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 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 are given to the Glory of God in memory of Sandra Burton's birthday on March 11, with lots of love from her children: Beth & her husband Joel, and Mike & his wife Michelle; her granddaughter, Laura Beth & her husband Phil, and her great grandson, Ezekiel. In memory of Kery Hummel, who passed on March 8, 2022, by Aaron Hendrickson. 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

BILL SHAFFER- CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE: A Celebration of Life Service for Bill Shaffer will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 18th in the sanctuary at 3:00 PM. Prior to the service at 2:00 PM a visitation will be held in the Gathering Place.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 5, 2023
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	\$ 43,279.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 38,991.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,287.00

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: MIKAYLA DODGE & SUSAN MILLS

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: Join us following worship today for St. Patrick's Day treats and fellowship!



THE HIGHLANDERS WILL meet for lunch at Puccini's Restaurant on Thursday, March 16th at 11:30 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Gallion.

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.

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.

DR. ROSANN CATALANO WEEKEND RETREAT: We are excited to welcome back Dr. Catalano for a short weekend retreat on Friday, March 24th and Saturday, March 25th. 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. 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 March 19th.**



Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

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

MISSION
RULING ELDERS: BRENDA LUGER & AARON HENDRICKSON

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: IHANTONWAN LEARNING CAMP - Marty, SD July 8th-15th, 2023

Pastor Alison will be holding an Informational Meeting for Summer 2023 TODAY at 12:30 PM in the Dakota Room or via **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85175961553?pwd=RjFIT114ckVVRk5xSE9vRG00UTRHdz09>

Meeting ID: 851 7596 1553

Passcode: Marty

If you are unable to attend but interested in volunteering this summer, please email Pastor Alison (revalisonpeters@gmail.com) for more information. The Camp Description and applications are printed and available for anyone interested.

MISSION UPDATE: One of our regular local missions we have supported for years is no longer operational; AHEC Dental Program is no longer being funded and has closed down. The Mission Committee voted to replace this local charity with The Possibility Shop which is run by AHEC. The Possibility Shop is a one-stop location for individuals to be connected to needed local services (housing, food, clothing, employment resources, low income tax preparation, etc).

The annual monies allocated through our Missions budget will now go to support this local program and will be reflected in our church's annual Mission budget.

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)

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. **The deadline to register for the Partnership Conference is April 2, Palm Sunday.**

See the website: 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 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 2ND

11:00 AM Traditional Service at First Presbyterian

*MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 6TH

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 2nd) - Palm Procession at 10:30 AM on the Library Steps

Good Friday (April 7th) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12:00 PM (Service will begin at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul and end at First Presbyterian Church. Transportation will be available for anyone with difficulty walking long distances.)

EASTER FLOWERS 2023

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate below whether you wish to take your flowers home afterward, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Orders are due by Sunday, April 2nd.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Lily	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Chrysanthemums	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
	Total	_____	\$_____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home _____ I would like to donate the flowers _____

Easter Music 2023

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.

Special Music Contribution _____ \$ _____

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than **Sunday, April 2nd** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, MARCH (13)

8:30 AM BRITTANY OUT OF THE OFFICE
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING IN THE PARLOR
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, MARCH (14)

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (15)

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 (16)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:45 PM *MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE*: BIBLE STUDY IN THE GATHERING PLACE
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING IN THE GATHERING PLACE

FRIDAY, MARCH (17)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (18)

2:00 PM BILL SHAFFER VISITATION
3:00 PM BILL SHAFFER CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE (RECEPTION TO FOLLOW)

SUNDAY, MARCH (19)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MISSION IN A MINUTE: YMCA RAP
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.