

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*PIE JESU*  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MAURICE DURUFLE (1902-1986) ARR. J. BROWN

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 #402

*HOW LOVELY, LORD*

"MERLE'S TUNE"

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

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

RON BRYANT, HUNTER KUSKE, ELAINE SOLOMON

## QUESTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? *I do.*

Do you trust Him? *I do.*

Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His word and to show His love? *I do.*

Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church and this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be? *I will, with God's help.*

## MEMBERSHIP PRAYER

## WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

## 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 84

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup>As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

<sup>9</sup>Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup>For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

## ANTHEM

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

GABRIEL FAURE (1845-1924)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Word of God, Word made Flesh, at one with God Almighty,

Eternal light of the heavens and of earth;

The silence of the night, O Holy God,

Do not disdain our worth, O Holy God!

Shed over us the fire of Thy strength and Thy comfort,

May all hell flee away in fear of Thee,  
Ah, see this weary soul, awaken it from slumber  
Which causes it to forget Thy decree!  
O Christ look down with favour on those who adore Thee,  
To bless Thy name we are gathered, O Lord,  
Receive the songs we offer to Thy eternal glory,  
May we return laden with Thy reward.

**SECOND READING**

LUKE 14:7-14

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**SERMON**

“A GUEST LIST”

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* **HYMN #506**

LOOK WHO GATHERS AT CHRIST'S TABLE

“COPELAND”

**MISSION IN A MINUTE**

CUMBERLAND YMCA RAP

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY SOLO**

FOR I AM PERSUADED

CARLISLE FLOYD (1926-2021)

MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

For I am persuaded that neither life nor death  
Nor principalities, nor powers,  
Nor things present, nor things to come,  
Nor height, nor depth,  
Nor any other creature shall be able to  
Separate us from the LOVE of God.  
May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make this face to shine upon you,  
And give you peace.  
And give you peace.

\* **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 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 #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

“TWO OAKS”

\* 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

TOCCATA IN E MINOR  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHANN PACHELBEL (1653-1706)

\* 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 & Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Phil & Kim Mills

**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.

**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 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](https://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 Patricia Kelby by Judith Brown and Randy Adams. 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 March 125, 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	\$45,584.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$42,891.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,692.00

**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.**

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 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**MISSION**  
**RULING ELDERS: BRENDA LUGER & AARON HENDRICKSON**

**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.

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](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 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 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**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** (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.)

### **RULING ELDER BIO**

LINDA MELLON (CLASS OF 2026)

Linda grew up in the Presbyterian Church in McConnellsburg, PA. When Linda and her husband, Jim, had their daughter, Jessica, they became members of First Presbyterian in Cumberland. Jessica was fortunate to have many children her age in the church. From Learning Tree to Youth Club, our family participated in an active church life. Lina has taught Sunday School, ushered, and joined many classes at church. She appreciates the opportunity to be an elder at this time.

Her education includes, graduating from Penn State and the University of Illinois. After teaching two years in a middle school in New York, Linda was hired as a physical education teacher at ACM. She retired in 2006, and continued to teach fitness classes and water aerobics to seniors.

In 2010, she began raising Scottish Highland cows at her farm in PA. Jessica married Mick Burkett at the farm with the cows in attendance. Linda has two wonderful grandchildren, James, 5 and Mary Alice, 2. They both enjoy activities at the farm. They live only two miles apart in LaVale and spend lots of time together.

## 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	_____	\$_____
	<b>Total</b>	_____	\$_____

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 2<sup>nd</sup>** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY, MARCH (20)

7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

### TUESDAY, MARCH (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

6:30 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK NIGHT

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH (22)

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 (23)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

5:45 PM *MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE*: BIBLE STUDY IN THE GATHERING PLACE

### FRIDAY, MARCH (24)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

NEW TESTAMENT THROUGH JEWISH EYES: DR. ROSEANN CATALANO RETREAT

### SATURDAY, MARCH (25)

10:00 AM PEO MEETING

NEW TESTAMENT THROUGH JEWISH EYES: DR. ROSEANN CATALANO RETREAT

### SUNDAY, MARCH (26)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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.