

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 26, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LARGO "HARPSICHORD CONCERTO F MINOR"
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ERBARME DICH "ST. MATTHEW PASSION"
J.S. BACH 1685-1750

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 -

Thank you, God, for gathering us here in your holy house to sing and pray, to speak and listen, to wonder and grow.

Teach us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit that we may go out sharing your great love with all our neighbors;
in Jesus' name. AMEN.

* HYMN #404

WHAT IS THIS PLACE

"KOMT NU MET ZANG"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have called us to love you with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. But, if we are honest, we know that sometimes we hurt each other and fail to keep our promises to you. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us, day by day, to turn away from what is wrong and turn to you in faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

ANTHEM

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

JOHN RUTTER (1945-)

SECOND READING

LUKE 14:15-24

¹⁵One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶Then Jesus^[a] said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ ¹⁹Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ ²⁰Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²²And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ ²³Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you,^[b] none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’ ”

SERMON

“A MIXED GROUP”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #643

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

“NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

PIE JESU
BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

GABRIEL FAURE

Reflective Text:

Blessed Jesus, Grant them eternal rest.

* 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 #774

THERE IS NOW A NEW CREATION

“STUTTGART”

* 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

IMPROVISATION ON “STUTTGART”
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..... Sharon Kazary
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir and Brenda Luger, Flute
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Linda Mellon and David Stickler

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 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

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 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 Glory of God in loving memory of in loving memory of Neil Smith, by Nancy and Royce Hodges. 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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 19, 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	\$4,644.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$46,791.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 853.00

FAITH FORMATION
RULING ELDERS: JOSH GILHART & ANN KELLERMEYER

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be no Adult Sunday School on April 2nd or Easter Sunday. We will resume again on April 16th.

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 (and children-at-heart) can celebrate and learn about the Easter story.

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

Being Presbyterian: Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship - The Faith Formation committee is looking to host a two session class on the basics of Presbyterian Discipleship. This class will be perfect for newer guests and members looking to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian, as well as anyone looking for a refresh. If you are interested please speak with Joshua Gilhart.

MISSION
RULING ELDERS: BRENDA LUGER & AARON HENDRICKSON

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: On Sunday, April 9th, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People Program are all supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give from your abundance in this time of rebirth.

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.)

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	_____	\$_____
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 (27)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH (28)

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (29)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
LEARNING TREE PARENT CONFERENCES
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 (30)

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

FRIDAY, MARCH (31)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
LEARNING TREE PARENT CONFERENCES

SATURDAY, APRIL (1)

SUNDAY, APRIL (2)

10:30 AM PALM PROCESSION AT WASHINGTON STREET LIBRARY STEPS
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION-PALM SUNDAY