

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"BEACH SPRING" ARR. JOSHUA EVANOVICH

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 #401

HERE IN THIS PLACE

"GATHER US IN"

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 17:1-7

¹Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

²From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

³If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. ⁴As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

⁵My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

⁶I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words.

⁷Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

ANTHEM

AS BEFORE HIS TABLE

GABRIEL FAURE 91845-1924)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

As before his table kneeling, we this sacrament revere;
Ancient mysteries revealing, give the sign to eye and ear;
Faith, our outward senses sealing, makes our inward vision clear.
Glory let us give, and blessing, to the Father and the Son,
Holy Spirit praise addressing, ever three and ever one,
Ever too his love confessing while eternal ages run. Amen.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 15:32-39

³²Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.” ³³The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” ³⁴Jesus asked them, “How many loaves have you?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” ³⁵Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, ³⁶he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ³⁷And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ³⁸Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

SERMON

“A CROWDED TABLE”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #343

WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE

“GERMANY”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

CROWDED TABLE

NATALIE HEMBY, LORI MCKENNA AND BRANDI CARLILE

MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

You can hold my hand when you need to let go.

I can be a mountain when you're feeling valley low.

I can be a streetlight showing you the way home,

If you can hold my hand when you need to let go.

I want a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for ev'ryone.

Let us take on the world while you're young and able,

And bring us back together when the day is done.

If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seeds,

Plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.

If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap.

If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seeds.

The door is always open, your picture's on my wall.

Ev'ryone's a little broken and ev'ryone belongs.

Ev'ryone belongs.

* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Holy One, you know us completely. You welcomed us to this table to be strengthened for this Lenten journey. May our joy overflow after encountering you this day. May our peace pass all understanding and help us to settle into your great love that sends us out from this bountiful table to the entire world. Amen.

* HYMN #320

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN EVERY AGE

"WAREHAM"

* 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

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

JOHN B. FOLEY; ARR. J. BROWN

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

* 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.....	Katie Ross
Director of Music Ministries.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir and Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Sharon & Bob Kazary

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 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: 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 & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of February 26, 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	\$ 32,192.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 35,091.00
Over/(Under)	\$(2,899.00)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: MIKAYLA DODGE & SUSAN MILLS

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: Join us following worship Sunday, March 12th for St. Patrick's Day treats and fellowship! 

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.

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

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 5th at 2:00 PM EST.**

Speakers include Valerie Frey, Dr. William P. Brown, Dr. Jan Zámečník, Rev. Bruce Gillette and Ilona 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. **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!

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

Pastor Alison will be holding an **Informational Meeting for Summer 2023** on March 12th at 12:30 pm in the Dakota Room or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85175961553?pwd=RjFIT114ckVVRk5xSE9vRGo0UTRHdz09>

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.

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.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, MARCH (6)

8:30 AM BRITTANY OUT OF THE OFFICE
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, MARCH (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:15 PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ MEETING
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
6:30 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM STAFF LUNCHEON
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, MARCH (9)
LEARNING TREE STONE SOUP PICK UP

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

FRIDAY, MARCH (10)
LEARNING TREE STONE SOUP PICK UP

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (11)

10:00 AM PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH (12)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION-THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL
12:30 PM SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING
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.

LEARNING TREE STONE SOUP: In keeping with the spirit of the folk tale of Stone Soup, we will be collecting food items from our Learning Tree families and making the Learning Tree version of Stone Soup. We will be reading the story and discussing the importance of how our little effort makes a big result when it's done together. The kids will be making the soup on Wednesday the 8th and Thursday the 9th of March. **There will be quarts of soup available for pick up on Thursday, March 9th and Friday, March 10th.** It's a great way to share what the kids have learned with the whole family. There will be a vegetable and vegetable beef option. **Soup will be \$10/quart.**

Name: _____

Number of quarts: Beef _____ Vegetable _____