

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MAY 14, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CONCERTO IN G MINOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

TOMASO ALBINONI (1671-1751)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

WOMB OF LIFE AND SOURCE OF BEING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"RAQUEL"

Womb of life and source of being, home of every restless heart,
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We your children gather round you, at the table you prepared.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.
Mother, Brother, holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one-in-three and three-in-one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Our God gathers us here.

We have been tested, we have suffered, but God has brought us through.

Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

We cried aloud to God, and God listened and answered!

Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us worship!

Let us pray -

You alone, O Lord, are the Maker of heaven and earth. In you we live and move and have our being. We are your children, and you are our God. Teach us to turn away from false idols and to turn to you in faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who is risen from the dead. Amen.

* HYMN #2

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

"ITALIAN HYMN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we love you imperfectly: we do not always keep your commandments. We love each other imperfectly: we hurt those you call us to love through our actions and our inaction. We love ourselves imperfectly: we struggle to believe that we are truly your children, made in your image. Forgive us. By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful that we might live as Christ has shown us, reflecting your love and grace. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #441

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION (VS.1)

“GOD IS SO GOOD”

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God’s love.

Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!

How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

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 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹ who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

¹⁴ those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

ANTHEM

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

WILLIAM ALLEN PASCH

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers’ arms has blest us on your way
with countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our lives be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us all in grace and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!

SECOND READING

1 PETER 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with

gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

SERMON "NO FEAR" REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #836 ABIDE WITH ME "EVENTIDE"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM PRELUDE AT DAWN LYNN SHAW BAILEY
THE JOYBELLS

* DOXOLOGY #658 GOD IS SO GOOD (VS. 1) "GOD IS SO GOOD"
God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God's so good to me.

* 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 #366 LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING "HYFRYDOL"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #295 GO TO THE WORLD! (VS. 4) "SINE NOMINE"
Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE IMPROVISATION ON "HYFRYDOL"
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..... Carl Belt
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir and The JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Jeff & Kathy Getty

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: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our mothers, Jane Adams and Audrey Mills, by Phil and Kim Mills. 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

THE CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY presents *ETERNAL LIGHT & HOPE* on **FRIDAY, MAY 19th** at 7:30 PM and **SUNDAY, MAY 21st** at 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church!

In our 83rd Season, our Spring concerts focus on three works from the 19th and 21st centuries with this healing message, "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure, "Choose Love" by Kyle Pederson and "From Darkness to Light" by Ruth Watson Henderson. In addition to our community-based group of 35 singers and a tri-state area professional orchestra, we have engaged three guest professional artists-, Christopher Mooney, baritone, Larry Allen, guest organist and Christine Mazza, renowned harpist. We at CCS firmly believe to present our concerts as the composer originally intended and these additions complete that intent. We hope you will be able to join us this Spring. For further information please contact Judie Brown at 240-522-5070 or browjuda49@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of April 30, 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	\$66,484.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$70,189.00
Over/(Under)	\$(3,705.00)

FAITH FORMATION

RULING ELDERS: JOSH GILHART & ANN KELLERMEYER

CUMBERLAND AREA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Where: St. Paul Lutheran in Cumberland

Dates: June 12-15

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Ages: Age 5 through completion of 5th grade

Registration Deadline: June 1st (the registration form can be found on the table outside of the church office.)

Please register early. Limit of 40 this year. Registrations will not be taken at the door.

There will be a kickoff event on Saturday, June 10 at Moon-Glo Skating Rink from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be no cost for participants and families.

All participating congregations are encouraged to donate the following items for crafts:

- bandaids of all shapes and sizes (2x2, 4x4, gauze) - for making individual first aid kits
- magazines of all sorts - for cutting out pictures and gluing or taping to poster boards
- boxes of popcorn - to use for a craft
- stickers of all kinds!
- journals for writing in (all shapes and sizes giving each child a choice) - these can be found online or in stores like Ollies at very reasonable prices

You can put any such donations in the volunteer office marked VBS (Vacation Bible School). Thank you in advance for any help you can give. **For any questions contact Julie Courtney or Katie Ross.**

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & BRENDA LUGER

PENTECOST OFFERING: Next Sunday, May 28th our congregation will have the opportunity to donate to the Pentecost Offering.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$16 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more – to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

40% of the Pentecost Offering will be used to support a local youth based program.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. This will train and equip volunteers to engage in mission in the U.S. and around the world. It will reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend. It will provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.

25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18. This project offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.

10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative, to better the lives of children by working to ensure equitable, accessible, quality public education so that all children, may grow into the fullness of life.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Special Offering.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

RULING ELDERS: SHARON KAZARY & MIKE LEVITAS

PENTECOST SUNDAY: On Sunday, May 28th, we will celebrate Pentecost. You are invited to wear red, orange, or yellow to celebrate the birthday of the church.

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS on Sunday, June 4th. Worship will begin at 10:00 AM. Our summer schedule will remain until Sunday, September 3rd.

SUMMER MUSIC IS COMING SOON: The Sanctuary Choir takes a summer break from the beginning of June through Labor Day BUT worship and music continues and needs your help! If you are interested in participating in helping to provide music for a summer Sunday, now is the time to make that happen!! Please talk to any choir member or Judie Brown 240-522-5070 or browjuda49@gmail.com.

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

Carolyn Mathews

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Cindy Corley

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Linda Mellon

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Ann Kellermeyer

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, MAY (15)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, MAY (16)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY (17)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, MAY (18)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY DRESS REHEARSAL
6:00 PM SESSION MEETING IN THE DAKOTA ROOM

FRIDAY, MAY (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY (20)

SUNDAY, MAY (21)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
4:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

****Please note that Brittany will be on vacation from Tuesday, May 30th- Monday, June 5th. The church office will be open from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM by office volunteers during Brittany's time away.**



**Please donate your gently used clothing to the Possibility Shop!
All sizes of clothing, both men's and women's, will be gratefully appreciated.
Please leave your donations in the hallway from the side entrance.
This clothing drive will run through May 28th.**

**Thank you,
Your Mission Committee**