

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



AHEC West

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MAY 21, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY & INTROIT

THE CALL FROM "MYSTICAL SONGS"

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

CHRISTOPHER MOONEY, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Come, my way, my Truth, my Life;

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength;

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length;

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part;

Such a Heart, as joys in love. (George Herbert)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We may not know the time or the place,

But we know that God is restoring the world.

We may not see the risen Christ before us,

But we know his spirit rests on us.

We may not know what God is doing next,

But we come together in faith, excited to discover it! Excited to worship!

Let us pray -

Make us one, O God, as you are one. Show us the gift of eternal life: to know you as you know us. Help us to finish the work that you have called us to do, that we may glorify you always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #463

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

"FOUNDATION"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign. 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 68:1-10, 32-35

- ¹ Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.
² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.
³ But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.
⁴ Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the LORD— be exultant before him.
⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*
⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;
¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.
³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*
³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies.
³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God!

ANTHEM

RISE UP, MY LOVE, MY FAIR ONE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

HEALY WILLAN (1880-1968)

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear upon the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come;
Arise my love, my fair one and come away;
Come away. (from Song of Solomon)

SECOND READING

1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON

"NOT SO FUN"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #815

GIVE TO THE WINDS THY FEARS

"FESTAL SONG"

MISSION IN A MINUTE

AHEC WEST

DAVID STEWART

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM FROM "ELIJAH"

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1810-1847)

CHRISTOPHER MOONEY, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Draw near, all ye people; come to me!
Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel;
This day left it be known that Thou art God,
And I am thy servant!
Lord God of Abraham!
O show to all this people
that I have done these things according to Thy Word!
O hear me, Lord, and answer me!
Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
O hear me and answer me;
And show this people that Thou art Lord God;
And let their hearts again be turned to Thee! (I Kings 18: 36, 37)

* 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 #295

GO TO THE WORLD! (VS.1-3)

"SINE NOMINE"

* 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

TRUMPET TUNE IN C
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ANONYMOUS

* 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..... Wesley Mason
Director of Music Ministries..... Judith Brown
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir and Christopher Mooney, Baritone
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers..... Brenda & Betty Luger

We are pleased to welcome to the Sanctuary Choir this morning Members from the Larchmont Avenue Church Festival Choir, Larchmont, New York, including Christopher Mooney, guest baritone. They are joining the members of The Cumberland Choral Society In its Spring Concert "Eternal Light and Love" This afternoon in our sanctuary at 4:00 PM. We hope you can join us!

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 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 memory of **Sandra Burton, by Georgene and Rich.** 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* this afternoon 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.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of May 14, 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	\$75,116.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$74,089.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,126.00

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH
RULING ELDERS: MIKAYLA DODGE & LINDA MELLONESS

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY to Kathy Getty and family on the death of Kathy's mother, Patricia Whitehead.

THE HIGHLANDERS will be meeting for lunch on Thursday, May 25th at the Cumberland Country Club at 11:30 AM. Anyone needing a ride from the church parking lot please be at the church by 11:10 AM. Please RSVP to Betty Richtmeyer or Jan Layman.

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: Next 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.

SUMMER BOOK STUDY

UNCLOBBER BY COLBY MARTIN

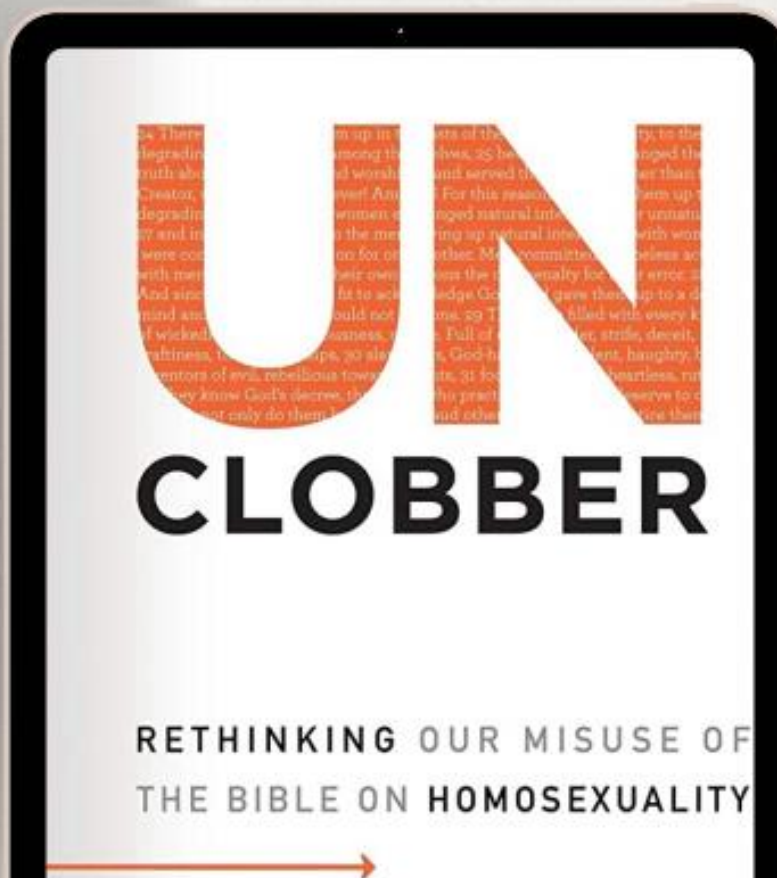
June 11th, 18th, 25th

July 16th 23rd, 30th

ZOOM

UnClobber reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that sheds divine light on outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations.

***Sign up using the QR Code or
Email Firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com***



SUMMER BOOK STUDY: UNCLOBBER SIGN UP

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

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 (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, MAY (23)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY (24)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

10:30 AM STAFF MEETING IN THE PARLOR

7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, MAY (25)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

4:00 PM WEST SIDE HUNTERS JOE CORBI'S PICK UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FRIDAY, MAY (26)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

9:00 AM LEARNING TREE END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AT ROCKY GAP

SATURDAY, MAY (27)

SUNDAY, MAY (28)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Please note that the Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

*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