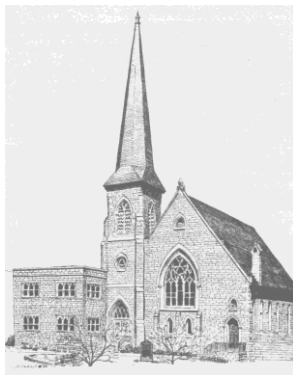


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



## SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

MAY 7, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. WALTER SCHURR

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED DARKNESS*  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“DIVINUM MYSTERIUM”

In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,  
You, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:  
In your mercy, you embraced us as your own,  
Evermore and evermore.  
Joy transforms our lips to boasting, only in your matchless grace,  
Sending Christ to dwell among us,  
Word made flesh in time and space:  
Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face,  
Evermore and evermore.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader : We hear the voice of Jesus:

People: **Our hearts burn within us.**

Leader: We lift our voices to God and call on the name of the Lord!

People: **The risen Christ is here in this place:**

All: Alleluia!

\* HYMN #340

*THIS IS MY SONG*

“FINLANDIA”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternally patient God,  
we ask again and again,  
“What should we do?”

And again, and again, you tell us,  
“Repent and return to me.”

Yet we have not changed our ways.

We fall into old habits, cling to our own ways,  
and take for granted the grace you have given us.  
Once again, we ask you for forgiveness.  
Show us the way forward and help us return,  
once again, to you.

*(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**

God was in Christ, not counting our sins against us, but entrusting us with the message of reconciliation. Know this:  
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

**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 28:1-9

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me,  
for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.  
<sup>2</sup>Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.  
<sup>3</sup>Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil,  
who speak peace with their neighbors while mischief is in their hearts.  
<sup>4</sup>Repay them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds;  
repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.  
<sup>5</sup>Because they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands,  
he will break them down and build them up no more.  
<sup>6</sup>Blessed be the LORD, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts;  
so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.  
<sup>9</sup>O save your people and bless your heritage; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

**ANTHEM**

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

O saving victim who opens the gate of Heaven,  
our foes press on us; give strength, bring aid.  
To the Lord, three in one, be everlasting glory,  
For he gives us life without end in the Kingdom. Amen

**SECOND READING**

ROMANS 8:18-24

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?

**SERMON**

“IMMEDIACY OF HOPE”

REV. ROBERT GAMBLE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A CANON OF PRAISE  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

W.A. MOZART ARR. ALICE CARPENTER

Make a joyful noise to God, all ye lands.  
Serve with gladness; Draw near to God with a joyful heart,  
Come before God’s presence with singing.  
Into His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise.

\* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements. Return to your seats and we will partake in them together.*

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

\* HYMN #756

O GOD OF EVERY NATION

“LLANGLOFFAN”

\* 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 “ODE TO JOY”  
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**

- Guest Preacher..... Rev. Robert Gamble
- Liturgist..... Sharon Kazary
- Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
- Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
- Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
- Ushers.....Kathy Dowell and Brenda Luger

**TODAY WE WELCOME BACK REV. ROBERT GAMBLE AS OUR GUEST PREACHER.** Dr. Robert Gamble, is the Executive Director of This Child Here, a Validated Ministry in the Presbyterian Church USA, which has been at work in Ukraine since 2006.

As their website [www.thischildhere.org](http://www.thischildhere.org) will tell you, “We work with families displaced by the war. Thousands of people have fled cities in the east and arrived in Odessa and Izmail, Ukraine in the west. As many fathers are in the military or still protecting their homes in places now dangerous, these families often consist of mothers and children. We provide products from grocery stores, and centers for activities, including: sports, music, art, dance, exercise, and English language, and programs led by psychologists, all for children and for mothers. Through these activities, summer camps, and the supportive community we have built, we offer therapy for the trauma suffered by these families.



## 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](http://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 her parents, Kirke and Theresa Davis, by Gail Plitnik. 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)

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

The COVID pandemic has created a need, greater than ever, for community and human interaction in this recovery period. - We, as human beings, **MUST** connect with each other and the devastating isolation for the last 3 years has shown that more than ever. The act of singing and making **LIVE** music together again is an act of healing in today's world and is drastically needed.

In our 83<sup>rd</sup> Season, our Spring concerts focus on three works from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:browjuda49@gmail.com)

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**  
**RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY**

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of April 30, 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	\$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](mailto:browjuda49@gmail.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY, MAY (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING IN THE PARLOR  
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

### TUESDAY, MAY (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

### WEDNESDAY, MAY (10)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
**LEARNING TREE MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON**  
1:00 PM PROJECT CONNECT IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY  
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

### THURSDAY, MAY (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### FRIDAY, MAY (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### SATURDAY, MAY (13)

9:00 AM WEST SIDE HUNTERS CHEER FITTINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
10:00 AM PEO MEETING IN THE PARLOR

### SUNDAY, MAY (14)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00 AM **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS**  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: MOTHER'S DAY  
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

**\*\*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.**

# FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

**MAY 14, 2023**

**10:00AM - 10:45AM**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Join us as we learn about how Jesus blesses children. There will be stories, snacks, and crafts for you to join in on.



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