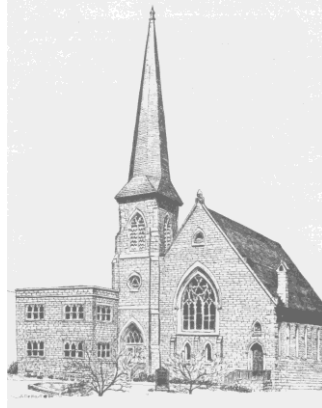


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY JULY 23, 2023 10:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

10:00 AM

PIANO SONG  
NANCY HODGES, PIANO  
CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PAUL HALLEY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We come. We wait.

**We long. We hope.**

We suffer. We pray.

**We rejoice. We sing.**

We know we are children of God.

**We wait for Christ to set all things right.**

Let us pray -

Eternal God, author of our life and end of our pilgrimage: guide us by your word and spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you. Amen.

### \* HYMN #321

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

"AURELIA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you - the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us.

Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

### RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

"SARADAY"

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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 139:1-12, 23-24

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.  
<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.  
<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any wicked<sup>al</sup> way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

### SOLO

DAY BY DAY (FROM GODSPELL)  
ALISON PETERS, SOPRANO & NANCY HODGES, PIANO

SCHWARTZ

### SECOND READING

GENESIS 28:10-22

- <sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, <sup>14</sup> and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup> Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."  
<sup>18</sup> So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup> so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, <sup>22</sup> and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house, and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

### SERMON

"FINDING THE LORD"

REV. ALISON PETERS

### \* HYMN #833

O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO

"ST. MARGARET"

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

### OFFERTORY SOLO

PREPARE YE (THE WAY OF THE LORD) (FROM GODSPELL)  
ALISON PETERS, SOPRANO & NANCY HODGES, PIANO  
*(Lyrics adapted from Matthew 3:3)*

SCHWARTZ

### \* DOXOLOGY #648

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

"THANKFUL HEARTS"

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

### \* 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 #839 BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE "ASSURANCE"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306 BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1) "SUO GAN"  
**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**  
**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE REPRISE-PREPARE YE (THE WAY OF THE LORD) (FROM GODSPELL) SCHWARTZ  
NANCY HODGES, 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..... Cole Cooper  
Director of Music Ministries..... Judith Brown  
Guest Pianist..... Nancy Hodges  
Musician..... Alison Peters, Soprano  
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers..... Linda Mellon & Evan Swanger



**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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**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.

**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.





**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).



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.

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

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:  
301-777-3700/ [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)



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



<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of July 9, 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	\$107,305.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$109,187.00
Over/(Under)	\$(1,881.00)

**MONDAY, JULY (24)**  
 8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**TUESDAY, JULY (25)**  
 8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**WEDNESDAY, JULY (26)**  
 8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

**THURSDAY, JULY (27)**  
 8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**FRIDAY, JULY (28)**  
 8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**SATURDAY, JULY (29)**  
 ACT NOW YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
 OVERNIGHT STAY

**SUNDAY, JULY (30)**  
 10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
 7:00 PM UNCLOBBER BOOK STUDY

**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

**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