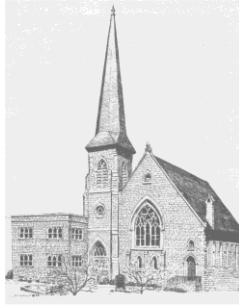


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

10:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

SONATA IN C MAJOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

QUIRINO GASPARINI

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT #392

JESUS, WE ARE HERE
(Congregational – sing 3 times)
Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
We are here for you.

TAIZE

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!

Our help is in God's name, the One who calls us here.

We come with songs of praise, with prayers too deep for words.

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Blessed be the Lord!

Let us pray -

Holy God, we come into your presence from many different places. We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us into your house, lift our burdens and receive our praise. Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

* HYMN #663

AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN

"MORNING HYMN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name we pray. 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 124

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—
² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
³ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
⁴ then the flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us;
⁵ then over us would have gone the raging waters. ⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

SOLO

PASTORALE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

BARTOLOMEO FRANZOSINI

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON

“FINDING GOD’S WAY”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #529

DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT’S TETHER

“UNION SEMINARY”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

THE LORD’S PRAYER
GARY HENDRICKSON, BASS; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* 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

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 AFTER COMMUNION

Creator God, you have fed us with your love, nourished us with your grace, filled us with your peace. Reshape our hearts, so that we might love and serve you and all your creation. Strengthened for the journey, let us go from this table with joy. Amen.

* HYMN #539

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

"WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY"

* 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

IF YOU WANT JOY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

TRADITIONAL

* 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/Organist..... Judith Brown
Musician..... Gary Hendrickson, Bass
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers..... Dave & Cindy Corley



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.

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).



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Eugene D. Munro and Bernice L. Munro, by their family. 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

To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700 / firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com



Please note that the church office will be **CLOSED** tomorrow, September 5th, in observance of Labor Day.



OUR FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE
BEGINS next Sunday, September 10th with our Fall Kick-Off Worship Service at Rocky Gap State Park in the White Pine Pavilion (details are below). Worship begins at 11:00 AM during the fall months.



FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC: Join us on Sunday, September 10th at Rocky Gap State Park for our Fall Kick-off worship service. The service will begin at 11:00 AM at the White Pine Pavilion on the left-hand side of Pleasant Valley Road. Attendees should wear comfortable clothes for the weather. Bring chairs for personal comfort. Plan to stay for a picnic potluck lunch and social time together. The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee will be providing fried chicken, macaroni salad, potato salad and drinks. **There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway for people to sign up to bring a dish.** There will also be musical entertainment, karaoke, corn hole, giant Jenga, and hula hoops.



MOUNTAIN MARYLAND MINISTRY GROUP - ALL CHURCH PICNIC! Join our regional ministry group on Saturday, October 14th from 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM at Fort Frederick State Park Picnic Shelter (11100 Fort Frederick Rd. Big Pool, MD 21711) for a fun picnic! We will gather together and enjoy food, a mission project, games, and fellowship. **RSVP by October 2nd** to Brittany Jackson firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com. Please let them know if you have any dietary restrictions or need help with transportation to the event.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (4)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (5)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
LEARNING TREE FIRST DAY!
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (9)

HERITAGE DAYS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (10)

11:00 AM FALL KICKOFF WORSHIP & PICNIC
ROCKY GAP- WHITE PINE PAVILION

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of August 27, 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	\$145,663.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$136,485.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,178.00

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 MinistriesJudith 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