

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



## SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 1, 2023

11:00 AM

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

WHEREFORE, O FATHER, WE THY HUMBLE SERVANTS  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

*(Meditative text)*

Wherefore, O Father, we Thy humble servants  
here bring before thee Christy thy well beloved,  
All perfect Offering, sacrifice immortal,  
Spotless oblation.

“OBULATION” ARR. D. JOHNSON

11:00 AM

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### INTROIT

HEAR, O ISRAEL

CAROL MCCLURE

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Hear, O Israel,  
and America,  
and Afghanistan  
and Russia  
and Italy:

The Lord Our God is One!

God of creation, who brought light from dark,  
Who formed sea and land, Who made each blazing star,  
You mixed the colors of each hand and face;  
You formed each child of each nation and race.

God of each nation, Guide us by Your Word;  
May Your glory shine and may Your voice be heard;  
May we turn into ploughshare the brandishing sword,  
And worship together our One God and Lord.

Song of creation, to your Maker,  
By whose hand the world was begun!  
Sing, each nation, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!  
Our God is One!”

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

Praise the LORD, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Let us pray:

Loving God, you created the world and all people. You are holy and we praise you. Jesus Christ, child of God and friend of us all, you are with us today as we are here. You are the Lord and we love you. Holy Spirit, breath of God, moving in all creation, you bring us close to God and make us holy and strong. You are here and we adore you. As we worship in the company of angels, surrounded by the saints, and embraced by your love, let us give ourselves openly and freely, as you give yourself to us, in tenderness and love. Loving God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, we worship you, the one holy and eternal God. We ask for your blessing on our journey of faith. We ask you for your blessing for our encounters and our sharing. You are our light and our hope. Today, tomorrow, and every day of our life. Amen.

\* HYMN #35

PRAISE YE THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

“LOBE DEN HERREN”

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God most merciful, we confess that we have sinned through our own fault, and in common with others, in thought, word, and deed, and through what we have left undone. We ask you for your forgiveness. By the power of your Spirit turn us from evil to good, help us to forgive others, and keep us in your ways of righteousness and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #449

SHOW US, O LORD, YOUR STEADFAST LOVE (Verse 1)

“MENDON”

Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love, and let your saving grace be near;  
when we return with open hearts the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.

#### 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

#### SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

- <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
- <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might and the wonders that he has done.
- <sup>12</sup> In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- <sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it and made the waters stand like a heap.
- <sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light.
- <sup>15</sup> He split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- <sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

#### ANTHEM

JOINED TOGETHER AS ONE BODY

JAMES BIERY

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Joined together as one body, Knit together, we are one,  
We the Church, God's chosen body, live our faith in Christ, the son.  
We are called to be disciples. We are called to live in love!  
Bring your hearts and minds, disciples, dedicate your lives to love.

Joined together by the Spirit every person brings a gift.  
Every life is full of merit; hearts of gratitude we lift.  
We are called to be the faithful! We are called to live in love!  
Such an honor to be faithful, full of life and full of love.

Join together sons and daughters, lift your voices, loud and strong!  
Come with singing, come with laughter, lift glad praises with a song!  
With great joy, shout Hallelujah, Christ is with us, we are One!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, we are one!

Joined together as one body, knit together, we are one.  
Still, each person in Christ's body will remain a separate one.  
We are called to be God's people! We are called to live in love!  
Always long, as God's people. For God's gracious, healing love.

SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

SERMON

"MIND MELD"

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #321

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

"AURELIA"

MISSION IN A MINUTE

CZECH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE LINDA SMITH, GEORGENE MCKENZIE, AND ALISON PETERS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

EARTH PRAYER

BILL DOUGLAS

MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Dona nobis, pacem – grant us peace.

\* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"PRAISE GOD (HOPSON)"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Lord, our God, we thank you that we could share around your table. Thank you for giving us faith, love, hope, and your Holy Spirit. Lead us on our way together as your people. Amen.

\* HYMN #298

LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION

"ABBOT'S LEIGH"

\* BENEDICTION

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST NOR WEST

“McKEE”

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Join the Mission Committee for a light reception and presentation on the Czech Partnership Conference after worship.

\* 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.....Sharon Kazary  
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown  
 Musician.....Mikayla Dodge ,Mezzo-Soprano and the Sanctuary Choir  
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
 Ushers.....The Kellermeyer Family



#### MONDAY, OCTOBER (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE  
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 5:45 PM MISSION MEETING  
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (4)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 10:30 AM STAFF MEETING  
 5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING  
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
 7:00 PM NA MEETING  
 7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER (5)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER (7)

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER (8)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY  
 12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of September 24, 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	\$160,636.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$152,084.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 8,551.00

### 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



**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).



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to God the glory of summer flowers gone to seed. The arrangements today are gathered from local fields and placed here to celebrate this season of beauty. 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)





**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** *Follow Me* is a curriculum from PCUSA that takes a look at the spiritual practices that Jesus taught. Prayer is both a central spiritual practice for followers of Jesus, and, for many, one of the most difficult to grasp. **Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in the Dakota Room as we explore prayer.**



**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER:** Join Josh Gilhart at 10:40 AM in the Chapel on Sunday mornings for prayer before the start of our worship service.



**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING:** The arrival of the Fall season also marks the time for The Peace and Global Witness Offering. This draws Presbyterians together. It provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering locally. Our portion of the monies collected will go to help support a program here in Cumberland, to be determined and announced after prayerful discussion. Our Baltimore Presbytery retains an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, here and abroad through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

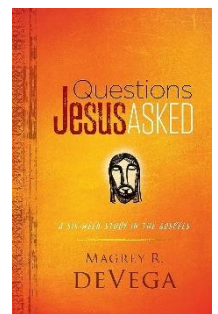
Please consider giving generously to this Offering today during worship. On your check, write to First Presbyterian Church, and in the memo line, write Special Offering.



**MOUNTAIN MARYLAND MINISTRY GROUP - ALL CHURCH PICNIC!** Join our regional ministry group on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com). Please let them know if you have any dietary restrictions or need help with transportation to the event.

**MISSION PROJECT DONATIONS:** At the All-Church Picnic on October 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be putting together “Blessing Bags” to be given to each church to donate to a local mission organization. Our Blessing Bags will be going to the Possibility Shop in Downtown Cumberland. You can help by donating new socks, cleansing wipes, deodorant, single tooth brushes, or travel sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and toothpaste. *Drop off items in the laundry basket at FPC by Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>!*

**FALL BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY:** Join us on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 PM, beginning October 12<sup>th</sup>, as we study *Questions Jesus Asked by Magrey R. DeVega*. Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey DeVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves.



Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Are you willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to answer the questions Jesus asked?

Books will be provided by the Faith Formation Committee for those that sign up for the study. Please use the cut off paper below to sign up.

**To RSVP for the Fall Book Study and claim your copy of *Questions Jesus Asked by Magrey R. DeVega*.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

## VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

## CHURCH MOTTO

"Empowered to love, serve, care, and give."

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023