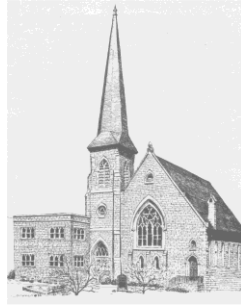


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: MOUNTAIN MARYLAND PULPIT EXCHANGE SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

YOU RAISE ME UP
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

BRENDA GRAHAM & ROLF LOVLAND

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

JOHN BELL

Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness
Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours through God who loves us

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Come into God's presence with singing.

L: Know that the Lord is God.

P: We are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

Let us pray...

We praise you, O God, for your faithfulness through the ages. You are with us as we greet the dawn of a new day. Your word guides us as we seek to be obedient. You comfort us during times of distress, and judge us according to our righteousness. As you sent Jesus to fulfill your promise, you fill us with your Spirit that we may know of your will. As we enter the gates of your sacred space, hear now our voices as we sing you our praise.

* HYMN #611

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

"HYMN OF JOY"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sin. Daily we awaken to the new life you give us, yet we fail to be thankful for the rest we have received. Moments await our decision to serve you yet time passes away as we think only of ourselves. Our routine affords us to chance to minister to others, yet we are absorbed with our own self-improvement. The day is soon passed; it has been much the same as others. Forgive us for casting aside the precious time you give to us each day.

(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

SOLO

FORGIVENESS

PAUL GORDON

MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO
You mustn't be revengeful You have to be strong
To offer good for evil Return right for wrong
We must not hold a grudge And we must learn to endure
Then as God is your judge
At least your heart will be pure
Forgiveness Is the mightiest sword
Forgiveness of those you hate Will be your highest reward
When they bruise you with words When they make you feel small
When it's hardest to bear You must do nothing at all
Forgiveness Is the simplest vow
Forgiveness Of all their crimes Is your deliverance now
Bless those souls Who would curse your name When the last bell tolls
You'll be free of blame You can continue to grieve But know the Gospel is true
You must forgive those who lie And bless them that curse you
Forgiveness Is the mightiest sword
Forgiveness of those you hate Will be your highest reward
The time will come when we will leave this world,
and then the injustice and the pain and the sin will fall away from us,
and only the spark of the spirit will remain - returning to God who created it
You must never lose faith You must never lose heart
God will restore your trust And I know you're afraid
I'm as scared as you are But willing to be brave
Brave enough for love

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 8:28-30

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

SERMON

"THE GREATEST RIDE"

REV. MARK SANDELL

* HYMN #610

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

"AZMON"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

KYRIE IN D MINOR, K. 65

W.A. MOZART

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* 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

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 #69

I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY

“HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)”

* 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

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD
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. Mark Sandell
Liturgist.....	Juliana Park
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musician.....	Mikayla Dodge, Soprano and the Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Kathy Dowell & Brenda Luger

This morning, we welcome Rev. Mark Sandell, of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Williamsport to our pulpit as our congregation participate in the Mountain Maryland Pulpit Exchange.



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 their parents, William and Bertha Workman, and Ernest and Sylvia Jarrell, by Bill and Amy Workman. 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



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 starting on September 17th at 10:00 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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: The Worship and Music Committee will be setting the communion table on Sunday, October 1st for World Communion Sunday with breads of the world set on cloth from around the globe. Please look through your linen closets and cedar chests for fabrics you have collected from other countries and loan them to us for that day. We will layer the communion table with them. Plexiglass will protect them from spills and crumbs. Label your fabrics with your name so we can be sure to return them to you the following week. If you have any interesting baskets that we can use to hold various breads please loan them to us for a few days and label with your name. **Please drop off your fabrics and baskets in the volunteer office by Thursday, September 28th.**



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 on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023. 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 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.

MISSION PROJECT DONATIONS: At the All-Church Picnic on October 14th, 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 12th!**

HIGHLANDERS – The Highlanders will meet on Thursday, September 21st at 11:30 AM at Hennys Restaurant in LaVale. Please call Jan Layman (301-724-2641) or Betty Richmeyer (301-759-4108) if you have any questions.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (18)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 10:30 AM STAFF MEETING
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (23)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (24)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of September 10, 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	\$153,406.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$144,285.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,121.00

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 Kellermeier

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