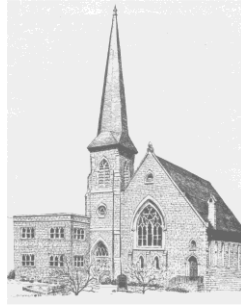


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



A LEGACY OF FAITH-REFORMED LESSONS AND CAROLS

Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett © 2021

Adapted for First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, 09/24/2023

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

WE ALL BELIEVE IN ONE GOD
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ROBT WEAVER, ARR. J. BROWN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“GENEVAN 42”

THE CHURCH ARISES

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #108

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

“DIVINUM MYSTERIUM”

1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2 By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!

3 O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

4 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

6 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us
and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen.**¹

THE CHURCH IS REFORMED

Holy and gracious God, we confess today to the same sins that have always plagued your church: we are too stuck in our ways too resistant to your Spirit too attracted to power and privilege too quick to build walls too slow to build bridges. Send more reformation our way until we are formed perfectly by you. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

RESPONSE #449

SHOW US, O LORD, YOUR STEADFAST LOVE

"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

Friends, hear the good news! Sin has always been at work in the world, yet God's grace meets it toe-to-toe. We believe that when the story is over, it is forgiveness that will have the last word.

In Christ we are forgiven, now and as often as we come before him. Alleluia! Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #275

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

"EIN' FESTE BURG"

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

THE SCOTS CONFESSION

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—
body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of evil.

He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.³

SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #321 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

“AURELIA”

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS: SHORTER WESTMINSTER CATECHISM

Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of humanity?

A. Humanity's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.⁵

Q. 33. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all privileges, of the children of God.

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole person after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

Q. 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. Assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.⁶

PRAYER RESPONSE

GOD BE IN MY HEAD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

SYDNEY NICHOLSON

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

AND ALWAYS BEING REFORMED...

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #288

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

"LIVING GOD"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (X2)

BARMEN CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF 1967

BELHAR CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #320

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN EVERY AGE

"WAREHAM"

1 The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

* **BENEDICTION: A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"¹⁰

POSTLUDE

AURELIA
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

Preacher Rev. Alison Peters
 Readers.....Josh Gilhart, Carolyn Mathews, Wesley Mason and David Stickler
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
 Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Kathy Dowell & David Stickler

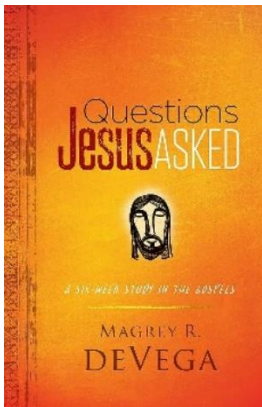
A FEW NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE:

All confessional excerpts are from *The PC(USA) Book of Confessions*. Louisville: Office of the General Assembly, 2016. They have been lightly modernized with inclusive terms for humankind.

- 1 The Nicene Creed.
- 2 The Scots Confession 3.16.
- 3 The Heidelberg Catechism 4.001.
- 4 The Second Helvetic Confession 5.112-113.
- 5 Shorter Westminster Catechism 7.001.
- 6 Shorter Westminster Catechism 7.033-7.036.
- 7 The Barmen Declaration 8.17-8.18.
- 8 The Confession of 1967 9.53-9.55.
- 9 The Belhar Confession 10.7.
- 10 A Brief Statement of Faith 11.4.

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



FALL BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY: Join us on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 PM, beginning October 12th, 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: _____



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 his grandmother, Dorothy Loar Mason, by Wesley Mason. 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.

CZECH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE PRESENTATION: Join the Mission Committee after worship next Sunday, October 1st for a presentation on the Czech Partnership Conference.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: The Worship and Music Committee will be setting the communion table next Sunday, October 1st for World Communion Sunday with **bread 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.

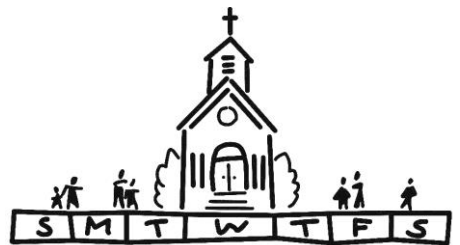
Please consider giving generously to this Offering on World Communion next Sunday, October 1, 2023. On your check, write to First Presbyterian Church, and in the memo line, write Special Offering.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST: If you would like to be considered to be nominated to become an elder in our church, or if you know someone who would make a good elder, please contact a member of the Church Nominating Committee and make a request by October 6th. **DO NOT ask the person who you are suggesting.** That is the responsibility of the Committee. The members of this year's Church Nominating Committee are Mikayla Dodge and Sharon Kazary, co-chairs, David Stickler, Cathy Levitas, Deb Hendrickson, and Julie Courtney.



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!**



This week at our Church

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (25)

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (26)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (27)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
BIKE THE US FOR MS (OVERNIGHT)
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (28)

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (29)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
BRITTANY OUT OF THE OFFICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (30)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER (24)

11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

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
2023 Pledge Balance Promised	\$206,688.00
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 Kellermeyer

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

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