

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

BERNADETTE FARRELL ARR. MARK HAYES

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

ASH GROVE

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Make a joyful noise to God!

Worship God with gladness!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Know that the Lord is God.

God made us. We belong to God.

Give thanks to God!

Bless the name of the Lord!

Let us pray -

Christ who reigns forever, we enter into your presence with joy and celebrate the love we have come to know. Help us in this hour to worship you with our whole being. Speak to us and make us listen. May we join forever with you in the work you began. Amen.

* HYMN #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

"ST. DENIO"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You, God, are our one and only King. We beg your forgiveness for the other "kings" that we kneel before: money, power, gossip, self-righteousness, and privilege. We beg your forgiveness, we who are broken and torn apart by our own doings and un-doings. Guide us to be your servants. Lead us to trust in you as the only king we need. Direct our faith in your sovereign power as we strive to follow your Son, through the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #698

TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM (3x)

"TAKE ME AS I AM"

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in 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

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 100:1-5

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

ANTHEM

JUBILATE!

MICHAEL BEDFORD

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Jubilate Deo omnes terra! (Praise the Lord all the earth!)

O be joyful in the Lord; serve the Lord with gladness

And come before His presence with a song!

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 6:27-36

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

SERMON

"WHOM WILL YOU LOVE?"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #795

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

"HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL"

OFFERTORY SOLO

ADAGIO

T. ALBINONI

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* DOXOLOGY #694

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING (Verse 1)

"AURELIA"

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

* 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 #611

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

"HYMN TO JOY"

* BENEDICTION

At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands to close our service, while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", to close our service.

You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!

* 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

CORONATION

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
Liturgist.....	Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....	Randy and Nadene Stroup
Ushers.....	David Stickler & 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 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. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome 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 "To Families with Young Children" 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).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: 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 a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us on **Thursday, November 30th** for our Hanging of the Greens event. We will begin the evening at 5:00 PM with pizza followed by the decorating of the church. Join us for an evening of Christmas cheer at our intergenerational gathering designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ.



FAMILY ADVENT CALENDARS: Advent calendars are available for pick up in the back of the sanctuary.

A DIVINE INVITATION: A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR ADVENT: Join Rev Martha Macgill for a time of quiet preparation and fellowship as we approach Advent and Christmastide. **With Advent starting a bit later in the calendar year, in 2023, we invite you to gather at Emmanuel Parish this evening from 4:00-8:00 PM.** We will enjoy meditations led by Rev Martha on the unique invitation by God to each of us in Advent and also spend time in fellowship with supper together. We will end the evening with a final mediation and Night Prayers together. End your Thanksgiving holidays with a time of reflection for the coming season. **We are asking folks to bring a side dish to share and make a small donation to the Community Cafe project.** For questions or to register early, please email Rev Martha at soulpacecumberland@gmail.com.

ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT: Join us on December 14th from 5:00-7:00 PM for our Advent Event. Our event will begin with a catered meal followed by a devotional, Holiday Bingo, Trivia, Crafts, a photo opportunity and cookie decorating. We will also be stuffing 30-50 bags of goodies to be taken to the Possibility Shop for their patrons. **Please RSVP using the QR Code or contact the church office by next Sunday, December 3rd.**



BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER: On Tuesday, November 28th, Jane O'Rourke will be turning 99 years old! We would like to help her celebrate by showering her with birthday cards. If you would like to send a birthday greeting, please use the address below to send your warm wishes.

Jane O'Rourke
10119 Mockingbird Ln SW
LaVale, MD 21502-6153

On Monday, December 4th, Thara Bonebreak will be turning 104 years old! We would like to help her celebrate by showering her with birthday cards. If you would like to send a birthday greeting, please use the address below to send your warm wishes.

Thara Bonebreak
Windsor Point Apt 312A,
1221 Broadstreet
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

SOCK DRIVE: Join us as we hope to warm some soles in Allegany and Mineral County by keeping the toes of area children and adults toasty this winter. We will be collecting socks now through Thursday, November 30th in the bin in the main hallway of FPC.



PEB 25 YEAR CELEBRATION: Join Friends of PEB on **Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00 PM** for a "Zoom Party" in honor of 25 years since denationalization of PEB schools in Pakistan. Connect with PEB's Executive Director Veda Gill and other staff members of PEB as they share stories and pictures of the past and dreams for the future. Please join us and meet other PEB supporters from all over the US.

CHORAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERTS: Join the Cumberland Choral Society this holiday season for an Eclectic Christmas! The concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church on **Friday, December 8th at 7:30 PM** and **Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 PM**. The concert will feature a diverse set of works embracing both the traditional and the modern.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in honor and celebration of Jane O'Rourke on her 99th birthday, from the Highlanders and your friends at First Presbyterian Church.



Please note that Brittany will be out of the office on Monday, November 27th and Tuesday, November 28th. The church office will be open on those days 9:00 AM-12:00 PM by an office volunteer.



This week at our Church

MONDAY, NOVEMBER (27)

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (28)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (29)

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (30)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM HANGING OF THE GREENS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (2)

12:00 PM PEB 25 YEAR CELEBRATION
VIA ZOOM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (3)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
HOLY COMMUNION
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3:00 PM SESSION OPEN HOUSE

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of November 19, 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	\$190,801.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$183,282.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,518.00

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2024 are available in the pews and in the back of the sanctuary. Pledges were dedicated during worship a few weeks ago, but you can make or update your pledge at any time. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

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

Christmas Poinsettias 2023

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **by Sunday, December 10th**.

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:30 PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$7.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA".

Number of poinsettias: _____ at \$7.00 each Total \$ _____

I will pick up my poinsettia: ☐

I wish to donate my poinsettia: ☐

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ _____ Total \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** (Please circle one) of: _____

By: _____

Please return your order no later than December 10th.

Christmas Music Offering 2023



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) _____

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2023" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than Sunday, December 17th**.

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

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023

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