

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 JANUARY 14, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ALLEGRO IN D MINOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL LONG (18TH CENTURY ENGLAND)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

BERNADETTE FARRELL

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
Still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,
Gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God calls each of us to serve.

We answer, "Here we are."

Jesus calls each of us to follow.

We answer, "Here we are."

The Holy Spirit calls each of us to worship this day.

We answer, "Here we are." Let us worship!

Let us pray -

You invite us, O God, to live in your ways, and you give us to each other to know and to love as we journey in this life.
Show us your will for all creation. Help us to listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts so that we may honor what
you have made, in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #686

GOD OF OUR LIFE

"SANDON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God - you sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Lamb of God for the world. He takes away our sins; have mercy on us as
we make our confession: We grow lax in our discipline, and we disobey Christ. Our faith is out of shape when put to
the test. Our courage disappears when we face temptation. Our bodies stay frozen when we are called to act. We profess

our love, yet our actions reveal other intentions. Forgive us. Help us to live up to the call you have placed on our lives and wake us up to serve you well. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #576

LORD, HAVE MERCY

“SINGAPURA”

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

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 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

ANTHEM

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

“KELVINGROVE” ARR. JOHN BELL

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen

And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

SCRIPTURE READING

I SAMUEL 3:1-20

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down

again.”⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.”¹⁷ Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.”¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

SERMON

“HEARING THE CALL”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #69

HERE I AM, LORD

“HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

STILL SMALL VOICE

DOROTHY CHRISTOPHERSON

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Still small voice God may sing in softest of sounds.

Yes, God’s love, like music, abounds;

New life given, daily made new,

Quiet, gentle, God’s love for you.

Still small voice, Maker, Savior of all.

Sasayaki, God gives peace for your soul.

* 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 #722

LORD, SPEAK TO ME, THAT I MAY SPEAK

“CANONBURY”

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

“DENNIS”

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

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

IMPROVISATION ON “GRAND ISLE”

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.....	Wesley Mason
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....	Rick & Robin Bissell
Ushers.....	Kathy Dowell & Cindy Corley

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of First Presbyterian church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

The purposes of the meeting are:

- To hear the Annual Report of the Session
- To elect an Auditor to the Auditing Committee
- To elect a new class of Ruling Elders
- To elect a 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee
- To receive the 2024 Budget
- To elect Officers of the Corporation
- To approve the pastor's terms of Call
- To conduct any other business properly coming before the Congregation-Corporation

-By Order of the Session

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

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023

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 worshipping 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 to join us. 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 the 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 such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and William Ludman, by Dorothy Malcolm and family.

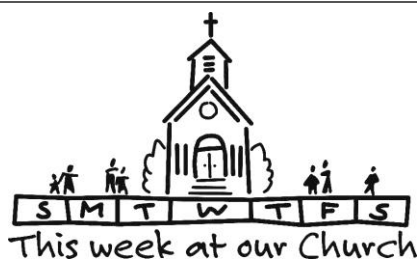
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

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

THANK YOU FROM CAROLYN MATHEWS! My grateful thanks to all who have supported me with cards, texts, calls, food, and flowers. The surgery went well and I am getting stronger every day. Your prayers and support have been deeply felt and are greatly appreciated. Peace and hope to all, Carolyn.



MONDAY, JANUARY (15)

10:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
 11:00 AM CARLOTTA SHAFFER VISITATION
 11:00 AM CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR
 CARLOTTA SHAFFER
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY (16)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (17)

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY (18)

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY (20)

SUNDAY, JANUARY (21)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
 11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:

as of January 7, 2024

Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
2023 Pledge Balance Promised	\$198,738.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 5,975.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 3,749.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,225.00

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 & Michael Levitas

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

KELSEY GALLO (CLASS OF 2027)

As a native of Allegany County, Kelsey grew up regularly attending church and Sunday school. She is a graduate of the Allegany County Public Schools and attended Hood College and Frostburg State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Reading Intervention. Since 2014, she has been the Pre-K teacher at The Learning Tree, as well as a teacher for the ACPS.

When Kelsey returned to Allegany County after college, her family joined the First Presbyterian Church as official members and have enjoyed their time. In particular, the fellowship, leadership, and offers of acceptance that our congregation pours into our young members is what finalized their decision to join First Presbyterian.

When Kelsey is not in her classroom, she is keeping up with her daughters and their activities, coaching youth sports, reading, or traveling with her family. In her home, she and her husband, Chris, valiantly strive to teach their girls the importance of investing in the communities around them. You can frequently find the Gallo family volunteering throughout the county- in our school community, church community, senior community, and anywhere that could use their help!

GARY HENDRICKSON (CLASS OF 2027)

Gary Hendrickson is a lifelong resident of Cumberland and a graduate of Fort Hill High School. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Frostburg State University. He is a first-generation college graduate and worked at the Celanese each summer to put himself through FSU. In 1986, he received his doctorate in Education from the University of Maryland.

Gary is retired from the Allegany County Public Schools, where he taught physics and higher math at Fort Hill and Allegany High Schools for 37 years. He also worked as an adjunct professor in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at FSU for 10+ years after his retirement.

As a teenager, Gary was a member of Zion Methodist Church where he sang in the choir and participated in the youth groups. He transferred his membership to First Presbyterian Church in the early 1970s. He has sung with the Sanctuary Choir since that time. Gary also served as Sunday School Superintendent and on church committees, such as Christian Education, Proposed Sanctuary Renovation Committee and the Organ Renovation Project. He has been the church Financial Secretary since 2004 and is currently on the Administration & Finance and Building & Grounds Committees. Gary has served one partial and one full term on Session.

Gary is the father of two grown children: Lindsey (Gus) Cheatham and Alex (Michelle) Hendrickson, and grandfather of Abbey, Molly and Jillian Cheatham and Gavin Hendrickson. He has been married to his wife, Deb, for over 37 years. Gary's hobbies include gardening, golfing, singing in the Choral Society and roller skating. Gary continues to support roller hockey at Moon Glo Skating Rink by serving as a referee and youth coach, as needed. Gary loves his four cats: Monette, Alice, Archie and Winifred.

BRENDA LUGER (CLASS OF 2027)

Brenda Luger has been a member of First Presbyterian since 1977. Throughout the years, she has played hand bells, sung with the Sanctuary Choir, played the flute, directed Christmas pageants, and served as a Youth Group leader. Brenda has found that serving on the Mission Committee the last few years has been her most rewarding experience thus far. The committee members are supportive and knowledgeable and have helped her grow in her role as co-moderator. Their dedication to mission and outreach, both locally and globally, has been an inspiration to her. Brenda has accepted a second term on session because she wants to continue to support our missions and find new projects that would benefit from our generosity.

LINDA SMITH (CLASS OF 2027)

When Linda first introduced herself to Session the first time she served as an elder, she said she was baptized a Methodist, confirmed a Lutheran, ordained and installed a Presbyterian, and might be buried as. . . who-knows-what.

A job with the Allegany County Public Schools brought Linda from Greensburg, PA to Cumberland in 1976. She attended both St. Paul's Lutheran and First Presbyterian but felt more at home at First Presbyterian, due to the sanctuary itself, and because the prayers and responses were different each Sunday and fit current events. Also, the members of the congregation were so welcoming. There was even a woman who had had a business (tombstones) in Greensburg.

Linda was invited to join Presbyterian Women and found it was a great way to get to know women of different ages as the circle met for meals and programs, and visited other churches for PW Presbytery gatherings. She served as secretary, treasurer, and even leader. PW is also very mission oriented and that appealed to her.

Linda first served alongside Charlene Lelinski on a Creative Arts Committee. They decorated the large bulletin board in the foyer and hosted art exhibits. She was a "charter member" when the Global Mission Subcommittee began and has been active on the Mission Committee ever since, especially with "Reason for the Season".

Linda's interest in travel led her to join mission work trips to Czech Republic in the 1990s, and FPC now has a church partner in Vsetin. Georgene McKenzie and Linda had the honor of representing our church at the dedication of PEB's Kinnaird Academy in Pakistan in 2006.

Linda also serves as the church librarian, historian, and is a charter Joy Bell ringer.

She worked as the library teacher at South Penn Elementary School for 40 years, and has enjoyed retirement for the last seven years. Currently, Linda is blessed to be her mother's caregiver. They spend half of each month in Cumberland and the other half of the month in Greensburg.