

# 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 21, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

PASTORALE  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

PHILIP HAYES

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

IN SILENCE MY SOUL THIRSTS  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"MY SOUL THIRSTS"

In silence my soul thirsts for God, for God alone I wait.  
My enemies may chase me down, love shields me from their hate.  
God is my rock, God is my strength; God is my salvation,  
My refuge, my abiding peace. I shall not be shaken.

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

The word of the Lord came.  
Hope for all people cradled in his arms.  
The word of the Lord comes.  
Calling us out of our comfort zones to where grace is needed most.  
The word of the Lord will come.  
Gathering outsiders and insiders into one community of the kingdom!

Let us pray -

Holy One, The psalmist describes you as hope, salvation, and shelter. We who hear these healing words are invited to put all our confidence in you, to pour out our hearts to you, knowing that you hear. Be with us in these moments to worship as you desire and to love you more deeply. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### \* HYMN #463

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

"FOUNDATION"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steadfast God, our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus. Our work provides for our wants, so we do not need your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your gospel with them. Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near. 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

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

<sup>3</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup> So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

### ANTHEM

JESU, JOY OF MAN’S DESIRING

J.S. BACH

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright.

Drawn to Thee my soul aspiring, soar to uncreated light.

Word of God our flesh that fashioned

With the fire of life impassioned.

Striving still to truth unknown,

Soaring, dying, round thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding, Hark what peaceful music rings!

Where the flock, in Thee confiding, Drinks of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty’s fairest pleasure

Theirs is wisdom’s holiest treasure.

Thou dost ever lead thine own

In the love of joys unknown.

### SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 1:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

### SERMON

“TURNING AROUND”

REV. ALISON PETERS

### \* HYMN #442

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

“WOODWORTH”

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

TRADITIONAL

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way

And who shall wear the starry crown Good Lord show me the way.

O Sisters/Brothers/Sinners let’s go down to the river to pray.

### \* 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 #543 GOD, BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME “GREEN TYLER”

\* 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 CWM RHONDDA  
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.....Sharon Squires  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Nursery Care Workers.....Randy & Sheri Sterne  
Ushers.....David Stickler & John Mullan

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

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 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 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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](https://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.

## 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)**



#### MONDAY, JANUARY (22)

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

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY (23)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (24)

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

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY (25)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY (26)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY (27)

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY (28)

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

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of January 14, 2024</b>
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	\$ 7,610.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 7,499.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 110.00

### 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

## Learning Tree Stone Soup

In keeping with the spirit of the folk tale of Stone Soup, we will be collecting food items from our Learning Tree families and making the Learning Tree version of Stone Soup. We will be reading the story and discussing the importance of how our little effort makes a big result when it's done together.

The kids will be making the soup on Thursday the 23rd and Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. **There will be quarts of soup available for pick up on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.** It's a great way to share what the kids have learned with the whole family. There will be a vegetable and vegetable beef option.

**Please submit all soup orders to Nadene or the church office by Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Soup will be \$10/quart.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of quarts

Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

This Lent you have several options for group and individual faith formation.

- Join Pastor Alison on **Thursday evenings** for our **study on the book "A Time to Grow"** which encourages readers to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. **Classes will begin February 15th and last for six weeks.** A soup dinner will begin every meeting at 5:00 PM with the class starting at 5:30 PM.
- **Our daily devotional "Holy Solitude"** introduces readers to figures in both Scripture and Christian history whose stories of discernment and discipline are a guide for our own spiritual practices as we seek to know God more fully and follow Christ more faithfully.
- If you'd like to **dig deeper into Holy Solitude** join our **Sunday School classes, beginning February 18th at 9:45 AM** with Rev. Martha Macgil in the Dakota Room
- **Join us on Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>) after worship for a Palm Sunday Brunch and our annual Easter Egg Blessing!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I am Interested in:

\_\_\_ "A Time to Grow" Mid-Week Study

\_\_\_ "Holy Solitude" Devotional ONLY

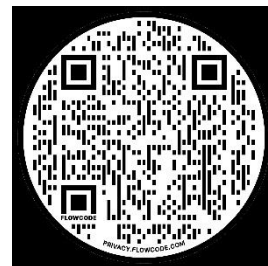
\_\_\_ "Holy Solitude" Devotional & Sunday School

\_\_\_ Palm Sunday Easter Egg Blessing: Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ LAUNCH PARTY:** Join Cumberland Community Cafe on **Sunday, January 28th from 12:00 - 4:00 PM** at the Cumberland Masonic Temple as we celebrate the groundbreaking and demolition phase of our cafe on Centre Street. There will be small bites and drinks for our guests, volunteers, supporters, and friends to celebrate all of the incredible progress made thus far at the Cumberland Community Cafe.

Questions? Email Pastor Alison [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

RSVP using the QR code or emailing [infocommunitycafe@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunitycafe@gmail.com)



## **SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATION**

**DAKOTA SOUP SALE - FEBRUARY 25TH AND 26TH!** The annual soup sale to support our June mission trip to South Dakota is underway! Orders can be placed until February 19th and pick-up will be February 25th after worship or February 26th in the morning.

### **SOUPS FOR SALE INCLUDE:**

- Beef Stew (DF)
- Chicken Tortilla (GF, DF)
- Traditional Red Chili (GF, DF)
- White Chicken Chili (GF)
- Vegetarian Vegetable (V, GF, DF)

**Order forms can be picked up and returned to the church office.**

**Questions? Contact Pastor Alison [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)**

**DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, March 3rd @ 12:30 PM (Dakota Room)**  
Would you be interested in volunteering at this summer's learning camp? Want to learn more? We'd love to answer your questions and tell you about this year's camp and the new exciting format we will follow. Adults of all ages and youth are encouraged to join us! No teaching experience is necessary, just a love for God's children and a willingness to learn. **Camp Dates: June 15th-June 22nd**

## **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 2025)**

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 Vsetín. 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.