

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 28, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN F  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM HINE

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

WE ALL ARE ONE IN MISSION  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN”

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call.  
Our varied gifts united by Christ the Lord of all  
A single great commission compels us from above  
To plan and work together that all may know God's love.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come, let us praise the Lord!

**We praise God with our whole heart!**

God's works are great!

**Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!**

Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

**May our lives reflect the wondrous love of God.**

Let us pray -

Holy One, as we gather together on the Sabbath day, may we continue to seek your kingdom in the here and now.

Help us in these moments to listen for your voice and to move in your direction. Amen.

\* HYMN #15

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

“LASST UNS ERFREUEN”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we think we know so much and have all the answers. In our self-proclaimed wisdom, we judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgement and blindness.

Help us to see where our humble help may be a blessing. Help us to share and serve.

Speak to us and teach us the way we should go. Open our hearts and make us listen. Remind us again of your love. Forgive our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to the world. 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 111:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup> They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

### ANTHEM

FOR I AM PERSUADED

MARK SCHWEIZER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; MIKAYLA DODGE. MEZZO-SOPRANO

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels,  
Nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth,  
Nor any other creature shall be able to keep me from the love of God  
And who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
God's spirit dwells within us, the Spirit is Life.

### SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

### SERMON

"SABBATH CONVERSATIONS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

### \* HYMN #772

LIVE INTO HOPE

"TRURO"

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

### OFFERTORY DUET

FAITH AND HOPE AND LOVE

KENTON COE

MIKAYLA DODGE, ALISON PETERS, SOPRANOS

Faith and hope and love we see, joining hand in hand agree;  
But the greatest of the three, and the best, is love.

### \* 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 #450

BE THOU MY VISION

“SLANE”

\* 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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION

(All members are encouraged to stay; visitors are welcome.)

POSTLUDE

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

PETER SCHOLTES

\* 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.....	Josh Gilhart
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Sopranos.....	Mikayla Dodge and Alison Peters
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....	Mike & Cathy Levitas
Ushers.....	Jeff & Kathy Getty

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

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

### 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



MONDAY, JANUARY (29)

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY (30)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (31)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (3)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (4)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION

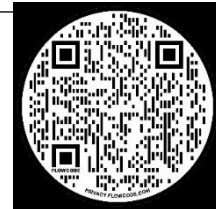
**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**  
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of January 21, 2024</b>
Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$198,738.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 11,450.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 11,249.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 200.00

**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)



**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 Macgill 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 15-June 22, 2024.**

## 2024 SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**PICK UP DATE:**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH 12-1 \_\_\_\_

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH 9-12 \_\_\_\_

	# Quart(s) x \$10	# Pint(s) x \$6
BEEF STEW (DF)	_____	_____
CHICKEN TORTILLA (GF, DF)	_____	_____
TRADITIONAL RED CHILI (GF, DF)	_____	_____
WHITE CHICKEN CHILI (GF)	_____	_____
VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE (V, GF, DF)	_____	_____

Quart Total \$ \_\_\_\_ Pint Total \$ \_\_\_\_

	#
2 ROLLS - \$1	_____ x \$1 ____
HALF DOZEN ROLLS - \$3	_____ x \$3 ____
ONE DOZEN ROLLS - \$5	_____ x \$5 ____

Roll Total \$ \_\_\_\_

Order Total \$ Due \_\_\_\_

All proceeds benefit First Presbyterian's 2024 Learning Camp Mission trip to South Dakota. Interested in learning more or volunteering? email Pastor Alison [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

Checks made payable to:  
First Presbyterian Church with "Dakota" in memo line

**ORDERS DUE BY FEBRUARY 19TH**

Return to First Presbyterian Church (11 Washington Street)  
or email to [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)

## 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.