

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First

**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

JANUARY 7, 2024

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

PRELUDE ON "DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"

EDWARD KERR

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED DARKNESS

"DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

In a deep unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
You, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
In your mercy you embraced us as your own, evermore and evermore.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come with your questions, come with your awe!

For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.

Let us pray -

Holy God, as we begin this new year of worship, we are hopeful. You created the world and called it good, it is with hope that we continue. Help us to be those who seek the good around us. May we be creators of goodness and love as we walk together on our journey of faith. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

* HYMN #664

MORNING HAS BROKEN

"BUNESSAN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, as we become your people. 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 29:1-11

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.
³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.
⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

ANTHEM

JOYFUL IS THE DARK
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"LINDNER"

Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
Rolling cloud of night beyond, all naming.
Majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.

Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor
Angels flicker, God on earth confessing
As with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
Hails the infant cry of need and blessing.

Joyful is the dark depth of love divine
Roaring looming thundercloud of glory
Holy haunting beauty living loving God
Hallelujah sing and tell the story!

SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 1:1-5

- ¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

SERMON

"IN THE BEGINNING"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #634

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

"TO GOD BE THE GLORY"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

HOLY SPIRIT, COME TO US (TUI AMORIS IGNEM)
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

TAIZE

Holy Spirit, come to us;
Kindle in us the fire of your 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward and receive the elements. Return to your seats and we will partake in them together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One - Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we turn to you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may fill our hearts and stir us to serve you through our neighbor. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #687

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

"ST. ANNE"

* 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 "DOWN AMPNEY"

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.....Mike Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....Jane Belt & Renee Kiddy
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell & Linda Mellon

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

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 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.

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**



MONDAY, JANUARY (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
(BRITTANY IN OFFICE UNTIL NOON THEN REMOTE)
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:30 AM ANNUAL ELEVATOR INSPECTION
5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (10)

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY (13)

PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY (14)

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 December 31, 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	\$206,303.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$206,681.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (377.00)

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



Sunday School — The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 AM. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, Facebook, and the church website.

Worship — Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.