

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 18, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LAMB OF GOD
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

TWILA PARIS

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

A SOWER CAME FROM ANCIENT HILLS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"SEACHRIST"

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting, hearts and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We gather in this Lenten season knowing we are broken.

Come and be seen.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing we need forgiveness.

Come and be heard.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing our hearts long for God.

Come and be loved.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing God calls us all.

Come as you are.

Let us pray -

God, we bring our full selves into this space. As we worship, help us to sense your presence. As we listen, give us understanding. As we move forward, let us have courage. For your goodness endures forever and we offer our praise.
Amen.

* HYMN #688

SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

"MORECAMBE"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, all too often we have turned from you, and our love has failed. Our longing for recognition has blinded us to the joy of your ways. We have turned aside and put our faith in things, in people, in institutions. We have placed our hope in the mortal, the tangible, the finite rather than the eternal. We have been quick to embrace hatred, sorrow, and anger instead of your life-giving love. We have sown seeds of discord rather than creating communities where love abounds. We long to turn our faces to you, away from death and destruction. We long to be people of love, light, and grace, so

that we might be your beacons in a desperate world. Give us strength to glory in your creation, to celebrate the beauty and wonder you have made. Give us strength to reclaim the promise of Christ's life, to claim the promise of Christ's love. Help us to choose the path that leads to life. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #183

COME TO ME, O WEARY TRAVELER (VS. 1)

"CALM SEAS"

Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...Believing in the good news of the gospel we can proclaim together:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE # 582

GLORY TO GOD

"GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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

GENESIS 2:15-17, 3:1-17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

SOLO

SPIRIT SOARING
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

PATRICA TAMBON

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the

world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹ Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON

"GARDEN TO KINGDOM"

JOSH GILHART

* HYMN #618

O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH

"DEO GRACIAS"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"ST. COLUMBA", ARR. MARK SCHWEIZER
AFTER J.S. BACH'S PRELUDE 1 IN C MAJOR

The King of Love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack, if I am his, and he is mine forever.
Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never,
Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

* DOXOLOGY #250

HYMN OF PROMISE (VS. 1)

"PROMISE"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #167

FORTY DAY AND FORTY NIGHTS

"AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #549

MAY THE LOVE OF THE LORD

"SOON TI"

May the love of the Lord rest up - on your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, through - out ev - ery day.

May God's coun - te-nance shine up - on you and be gra - cious to you.

May God's Spir - it be up - on you as you leave this place.

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Reflective text:

Lord, to you my soul is lifted,
Let me never be ashamed
That I trust in you to keep me
Though I seem to wait in vain.
Lord, remember all your love,
In your holy will, instruct me
Lord, do not remember sins
Of those younger years behind me.

* 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

Guest Preacher	Josh Gilhart
Liturgist.....	Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....	Cindy Corley & Cathy Levitas
Ushers.....	Kathy Dowell & Sharon Squires

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.




**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**



This week at our Church

MONDAY, FEBRUARY (19)

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (21)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY MEAL
5:30 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (23)


8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (24)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (25)


10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
12:00 PM SOUTH DAKOTA SOUP SALE PICK UP

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of February 11, 2024	
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	\$ 26,935.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 22,710.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,224.00

ONLINE GIVING





INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

This invitation is for anyone who has visited us in worship and wants to know more about what membership means in the PC(USA) -

Pastor Alison welcomes you to join her in the Parlor during the Second Sunday Social on March 10th. This is a time to learn more about our congregation and ask any questions you might have about membership at First Presbyterian Church. If you are unable to attend these gatherings, feel free to reach out to Pastor Alison to schedule a time one-on-one! revalisonpeters@gmail.com.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH: Join us on Palm Sunday (March 24th) after worship for a Palm Sunday Brunch and our annual Easter Egg Blessing! Use the slip below to RSVP for the brunch.

Name: _____

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

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

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