

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CORNET VOLUNTARY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

HENRY HERON

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HEED OUR PLEADING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"NJOO KWETU"

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing, help us to follow you.
Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure..
Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us worship and sing praises to God,
for the Lord is gracious and worthy of praise!
God gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted.
God gives the stars their names and makes grass grow on the hills.
Let us hope in God's steadfast love.
We worship God together!

Let us pray -

Gracious God, you call us to follow Christ and spread the good news of your love for all people. Help us to become all things to all people that we might reach many with your good news. Amen.

* HYMN #331

GOD OF THE AGES, WHOSE ALMIGHTY HAND

"NATIONAL HYMN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you heal the brokenhearted; save us from sin when we inflict pain on our neighbors. We bear grudges against those who deceive us. We seek revenge on those who hurt us. Some we judge inferior, since they do not meet our standards. Others we deem unworthy of our respect and support. Jesus showed us the way of compassion, reaching to all who were afflicted and going to the places where there was the deepest need.

Forgive us, O God, when our hearts are hardened against neighbors. Break open our hearts to be the people who share your love without hesitation or distinction. Through Christ our example. 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 147:1-11, 20

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God, for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

²The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

⁵Great is our Lord and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹He gives to the animals their food and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the horse nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

²⁰He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM

DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER

HAROLD FRIEDEL, "UNION SEMINARY"

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name
Two or three are met together you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup
Then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup.
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you.
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in,

²³who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

SERMON

"STAYING POWER"

REV. ALISON PETERS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

GOD IS LOVE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

THOMAS C. GRIGGS

* 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 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.**

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 of them together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of All, thank you for welcoming us at your table this day, to share in the feast you have prepared. May these simple gifts of bread and juice nurture us in our journey. May we be bold enough to move ahead to share your truth and spread your love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

* HYMN #305

COME SING, O CHURCH, IN JOY!

“DARWALL’S 148TH”

* 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 “UNSTEAD”
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.....	David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Nursery Care Workers.....	Bill & Ann Kellermeyer
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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Theresa Leasure by Eric Ringler and Josh Gilhart.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY (5)

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING
1:00 PM FIRE ELEVATOR INSPECTION
5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (10)

PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (11)

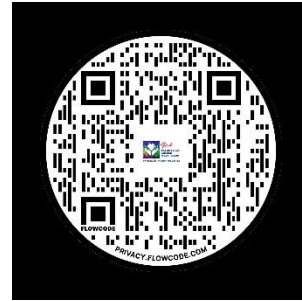
10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE THE LORD'S DAY
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of January 28, 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	\$ 16,085.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 15,014.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,070.00

ONLINE GIVING



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



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP? 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 either February 11th or 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.



ASH WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE: Join us on Wednesday, February 14th at 12:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Pastor Alison will be preaching.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Join us on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30 PM in the CHAPEL for a service of reflection and imposition of ashes.

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- March 17th at 9:45 AM with Rev. Martha Macgill in the Dakota Room.** This study offers a daily reflection for each day of Lent and recommends helpful practices for the Lenten season. **In order to be prepared for the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday, please pick up your book NOW at First Pres in the office and read the first introductory section (pp.vii-xxi) before class begins. Please read the first three reflections of the book beginning with Ash Wednesday (pp. 1-9) as well.** As the book prompts, particularly think about how to prepare a prayer space for Lent and ponder what a practice of fasting and almsgiving might look like for you. We will start our discussion on Sunday Feb 18th with these questions and then move to prepare for the First Full Week of Lent.
- **Join us on Palm Sunday (March 24th) 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

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