

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 10, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ANDANTE TRANQUILLO
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

GARDEN SONG

"WORDS AND MUSIC BY DAVE MALLET"

MARY ALICE BURKETT & CAROLYN MATHEWS, GUITAR

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow,
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground,
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless the seeds I sow,
Someone warm them from below 'til the rain comes tumbling down.
Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones, we are made of dreams and bones,
Feel the need to grow our own, 'cause the time is close at hand,
Grain for grain, sun and rain, find my way in nature's chain,
To our bodies and our brains to the music from the land.
Plant the rows, straight and long, thicker than with pray'r and song,
Mother Earth will make us strong if we give her love and care.
Old crow watchin' hungrily from his perch in yonder tree,
In this garden we are free as that feathered beak up there.
Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow.
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless the seeds we sow,
Someone warm them from below, 'til the rain comes tumblin' down.

* 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 #610

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

"AZMON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Creator, we often see as the world sees rather than looking at life through your eyes. Help us to see with your vision, help us to see with your wisdom. Like Samuel, we failed to see value in others. We get too caught up in the things that do not matter to you. Restore our vision to see your creation, our fellow creatures, and our fellow human beings as you see them.

When we feel overcome by darkness, help us to look to the Light of the World. May we choose to turn our faces toward the light. Give us wisdom, God of Creation, to see potential where others see despair, to seek grace where others seek revenge, and to see love where others see only hate. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #183

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

“AUSTIN”

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

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS WILLIAM AND ROBERTA CAMERON, IAN GRAY, NORMAN AND BARBARA NICOL, MITCHELL PETERS, JANE WESTCOTT

QUESTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? I do.

Do you trust Him? I do.

Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His word and to show His love? I do.

Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church and this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be? I will, with God's help.

MEMBERSHIP PRAYER

WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

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

JOHN 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

ANTHEM

I WAITED FOR THE LORD

MENDELSSOHN

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; KATELYN HENDRIX, MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANOS

I waited for the Lord, He inclined unto me,
He heard my complaint.

O blest are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

I SAMUEL 16:1-13

16 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and

invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SERMON

“LIGHT”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #53

O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE

“NOEL”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY QUARTET

QUANTA QUALIA

PATRICK HAWES

KATELYN HENDRIX, ALISON PETERS, MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANOS; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Anima mea Mane! O mane!!

Quanta O quanta Qualia Conventus Gaudia Conventus Erunt

Gaudai Anima mea

My soul abide; how great, how wonderful will meeting in heaven be;

What a joy!

* 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- (Ecumenical Version)

(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

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 #749

COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!

“WE ARE CALLED”

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #549

MAY THE LOVE OF THE LORD

“SOON T1”

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-tenance shine up-on you and be gra-cious to you.



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

POSTLUDE

VOLUNTARY IN C
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ANONYMOUS

* 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; Carolyn Mathews, Guitar and Vocalist; Mary Alice Burkett, Vocalist
 Sopranos.....Mikayla Dodge, Katelyn Hendrix, and Alison Peters
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Nursery Care Workers.....Jeff & Kathy Getty
 Ushers..... Michael & Cathy Levitas

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We celebrate our newest members today: William (Bill) and Roberta (Bobbie) Cameron; Ian Gray; Norman (Norm) and Barbara (Barb) Nicol; Mitchell Peters; and Jane Westcott. Join us at the Second Sunday Social as we share a meal and some cake together!



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, which are located 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 Sandra Burtons birthday (March 11), with lots of love from her children: ~Beth and her husband, Joel; Mike and his wife, Michelle; her granddaughter, Laura Beth and her husband, Phil; and her great grandsons, Ezekiel and Thaddeus (Teddy). The flowers in the sanctuary are also in memory of Kery Hummel, who passed on March 8, 2022, by Aaron Hendrickson.



MONDAY, MARCH (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, MARCH (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (13)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH (14)

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

FRIDAY, MARCH (15)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (16)

SUNDAY, MARCH (17)

10:00 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 February 25, 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	\$ 46,297.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 34,083.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,213.00

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 today.** 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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: On Sunday, March 31st, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People Program are all supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give from your abundance in this time of rebirth.

EASTER FLOWERS 2024

If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate your selection below. Please also choose if you wish to take your flowers home after the service, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Orders are due by Friday, March 22nd.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Daffodils	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Lily	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
Chrysanthemums	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
Total		_____	\$ _____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home I would like to donate the flowers

Easter Music 2024

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.

Special Music Contribution _____ \$ _____

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Given to the Glory of God by: _____

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than **Sunday, March 24th** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.

Join FPC for our Holy Week Services!

*MAUNDY THURSDAY- MARCH 28TH 6:30 PM at First Presbyterian

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- MARCH 31ST

SUNRISE SERVICE at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

CHURCHES ON THE HILL LENTEN WORSHIP

We will join this Lent with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran for joint worship services:

Palm Sunday (March 24th)- Ecumenical Palm Blessing & Procession on Washington Street Library steps at 10:45 PM to return for our traditional service at 11:00 AM.

Good Friday (March 29th) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12: 00 PM (Service will begin at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul and end at First Presbyterian Church. Transportation will be available for anyone with difficulty walking long distances.)