

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

APRIL 21, 2024

11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CORNET VOLUNTARY  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

GEORG BERG

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

YOUR ONLY SON  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"LAMB OF GOD"

I was so lost, I should have died  
But you have brought me to your side  
To be led by your staff and rod  
And to be called a Lamb of God.  
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the Holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in his precious blood  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We gather together to worship God,  
the Shepherd of our souls.  
The one who created us, who sustains us, who redeems us.  
The one who walks beside us in good times and in bad.  
The one who even now calls us to follow.  
This is our God!

Let us pray -

Loving God, you care for us in so many ways so we lift our hearts to you in praise. As we worship this hour, give us the strength we need. May our lives reflect our love and lead us into deeper service. Through our Risen Lord, Amen.

\* HYMN #39

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

"FAITHFULNESS"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change  
 all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.  
 Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:  
 evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

## 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.*

THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## FIRST READING

PSALM 23:1-6

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
 I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## ANTHEM

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED  
 THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name.  
 In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.  
 He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.  
 He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death thy presence is my stay.  
 One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
 Thy hand in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.  
 My cup with blessings overflows thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days.  
 O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise  
 There would I find a settled rest while others go and come;  
 No more a stranger or a guest but like a child at home.

## SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters.  
<sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?  
<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, <sup>22</sup> and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.  
<sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## SERMON

"PUT IN ACTION"

REV. ALISON PETERS

## \* HYMN #757

TODAY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES

"KINGSFOLD"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

Jesus, shepherd of my souls, selfless in your caring,  
Lead us out to days of peace and of thoughtful sharing.  
Free our life from ill and war; What is good in us restore.

May we with a shepherd's heart love the people round us,  
Still recalling how your love in our straying found us  
Keep us Lord in humble ways; lead us clearly all our days.

Living Lord, renew the charge at your rising given;  
that your church in love should bring to this earth your heaven.  
Give us insight, show us how life is here, the task is now.

\* DOXOLOGY #250

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER (VERSE 3)

"PROMISE"

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, 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 #300

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

"THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"DENNIS"

*At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close our service.*

*You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**  
**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

VICTORY  
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.....Cathy Levitas  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers..... Carl and Jane Belt



**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, 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](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)**



MONDAY, APRIL (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, APRIL (23)

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (24)

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

THURSDAY, APRIL (25)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, APRIL (26)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
7:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

SATURDAY, APRIL (27)

PEO MEETING  
COMMUNITY CAFÉ KITCHEN PREP

SUNDAY, APRIL (28)

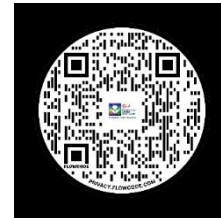
9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
4:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

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



|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>   | <b>as of April 14, 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 | \$ 64,008.00                |
| Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date | \$ 56,831.00                |
| Over/(Under)                         | \$ 7,176.00                 |

**ONLINE GIVING**



**SPRING CLEAN UP DAY:** The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to attend the Spring Clean Up Day on **Saturday, May 4th from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.**

**THE CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT DATES** and the Grand Opening Weekend of the new Wills Creek Museum, located directly across from the church, are Friday, April 26 and Sunday, April 28. The two organizations will be celebrating and combining events this spring with music, tours, and receptions.

"Requiem," meaning "rest" in Latin, is the theme of this spring's music. CCS will recognize the legacy of Cumberland's ancestors as well as humankind here and now on this glorious planet. "Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest and a portion of the John Rutter "Requiem" will be presented by the Cumberland Choral Society with professional soloists and orchestra on **Friday, April 26 at 7:30pm** and **Sunday, April 28 at 4pm**. A reception open to all will follow the Sunday concert. More information concerning the CCS concerts can be found on the Cumberland Choral Society FaceBook page or by getting in touch with Eric Ringler or Judie Brown through the church office. Further information concerning the Wills Creek events can be obtained by contacting Martha McGill at [soulspacecumberland@gmail.com](mailto:soulspacecumberland@gmail.com).

**"Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest:** Dan Forrest calls his composition Requiem for the Living because he is making a distinction from traditional requiems, which originated as masses for the dead. The word requiem is, Latin for "rest".

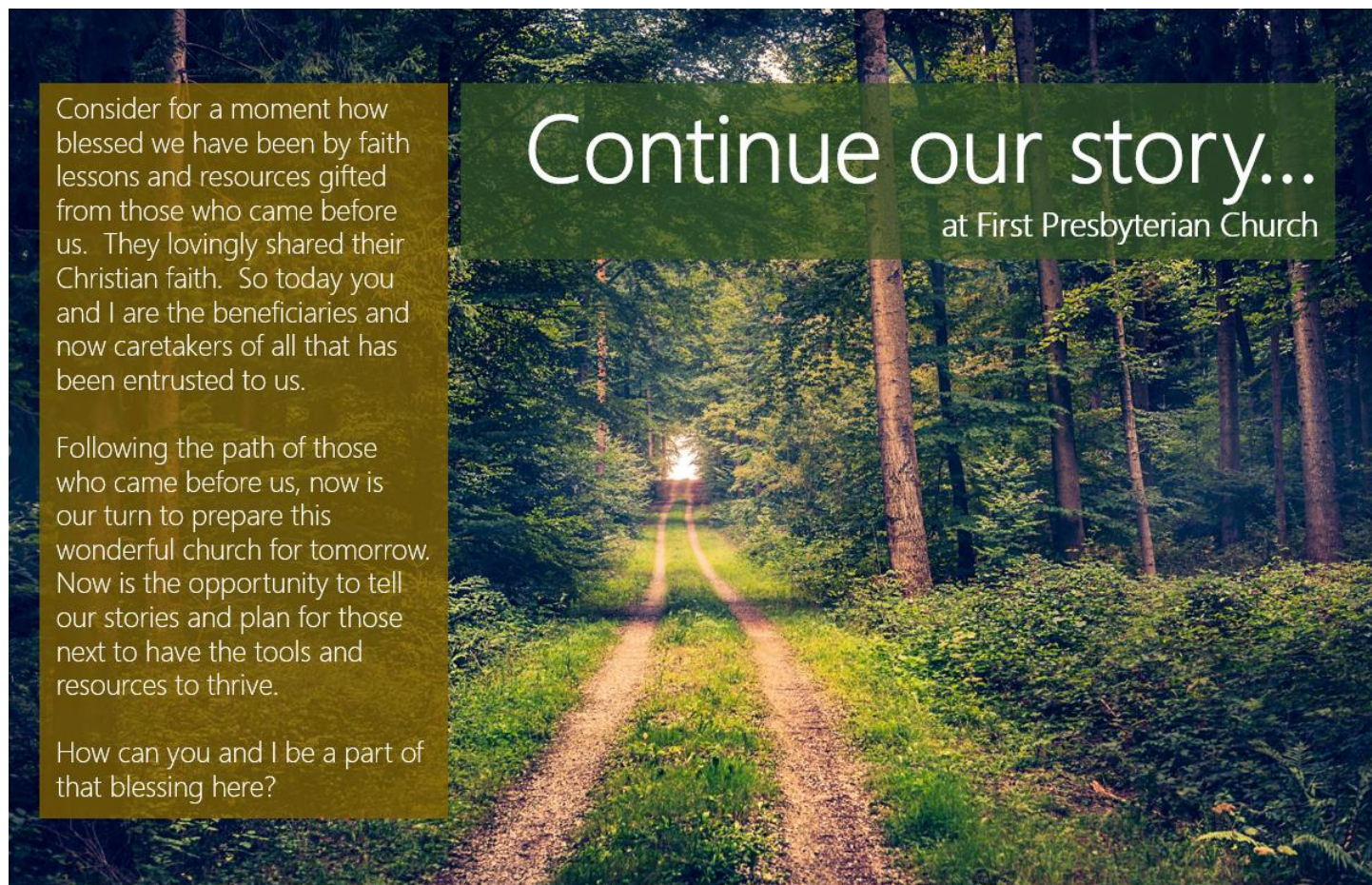
What makes Requiem for the Living different? Why give attention to this particular work? It isn't that the work itself has shattered the norms of the genre; rather, Forrest puts a delicate twist into his work that raises the question: for whom is this intended? What sets his work apart is neither the text nor the music, but rather his intention—to ask for rest and mercy for the living. (Did you notice that Dan Forrest's last name is "For Rest"? Perhaps he was born to pen this requiem.)

**In the words of the composer, Dan Forrest:**

The five movements of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, (2013), however, form a narrative just as much for the living, and

their own struggle with pain and sorrow, as for the dead. The opening movement sets the traditional Introit and Kyrie texts-pleas for rest and mercy- using ever-increasing elaborations on a simple three-note descending motive. The second movement, instead of the traditional Dies Irae, sets Scriptural texts that speak of the turmoil and sorrow which face humanity, while yet invoking musical and textual allusions to the Dies Irae. This movement juxtaposes aggressive rhythmic gestures with long, floating melodic lines, including quotes of the Kyrie from the first movement. The Agnus Dei is performed next (a departure from the usual liturgical order) as a plea for deliverance and peace; the Sanctus, following it, becomes a response to this redemption. The Sanctus offers three different glimpses of the "heavens and earth, full of Thy glory", all of which develop the same musical motive: an ethereal opening section inspired by images of space from the Hubble Space Telescope, a stirring middle section inspired by images of our own planet as viewed from the International Space Station, and a closing section which brings the listener down to Earth, where cities teem with the energy of humanity. The Lux Aeterna which then closes the work portrays light, peace, and rest- for both the deceased and the living.

**THANK YOU FROM RENEE KIDDY & FAMILY:** To my church family. Thank you for your caring prayers and support. The outpouring of sympathy means so much to my family. Jason was a wonderful son.



Consider for a moment how blessed we have been by faith lessons and resources gifted from those who came before us. They lovingly shared their Christian faith. So today you and I are the beneficiaries and now caretakers of all that has been entrusted to us.

Following the path of those who came before us, now is our turn to prepare this wonderful church for tomorrow. Now is the opportunity to tell our stories and plan for those next to have the tools and resources to thrive.

How can you and I be a part of that blessing here?

Continue our story..  
at First Presbyterian Church

**PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR:** Join us on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** following worship for a planned giving event led by The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley. The discussion will include:

- How to discern your own legacy
- How to share the message with the church and those you love
- How to make a planned gift to continue your ministry here

**Please us the tear off sheet below if you plan to attend.**

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people planning to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

# A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

## (Psalm 119:105):

### How do we read the Bible today?

A ZOOM conference organized as part of the partnership between the ECCB and the PC (USA) on April 21, 2024 at 2 P.M. EST at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>

Both the ČCE and the PC (USA) have their roots in the Reformation, which elevated the Bible above all human authority. Both churches have embraced the modern age with its scientific and critical approach to everything, including the Bible. This is the challenge that both denominations face together. Systematic theologian Dr. Martha Moore-Kelsh of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and Old Testament scholar Dr. Petr Sláma of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University will open the topic with their presentations. This will be followed by breakout groups discussion and a summary plenary session. All this in 90 minutes. For further information and for registration (which will help us to prepare the discussion groups) contact Rev. Jan Lavický ([jan.lavicky@evangnet.cz](mailto:jan.lavicky@evangnet.cz)).



Univerzita  
Karlova



-  [www.etf.cuni.cz](http://www.etf.cuni.cz)
-  [@etfunikarlova](https://www.facebook.com/etfunikarlova)
-  [@etf\\_unikarlova](https://www.instagram.com/etf_unikarlova)