

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  
JULY 21, 2024 10:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING  
AMY BRANAM ARMIENTO, PIANO

GUSTAV HOLST, ARR. BY PAM TURNER

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We gather today as a community called to unity and love.

**We come together to build kindness and to live out our faith.**

With humble hearts, we seek to embody patience and gentleness.

**As one body, we strive to create a space where kindness flourishes.**

We are called to encourage one another, to lift each other up in love.

**Let us walk worthy of the calling we have received, in all humility and with a spirit of unity.**

Together, we build a community of kindness, reflecting the love of Christ.

**Come, let us worship the Lord with hearts full of compassion and minds set on peace.**

Let us pray -

Holy One, we come before You in awe and reverence, adoring Your holy name. You are the source of all love, kindness, and grace. Your mercy is boundless, and Your faithfulness endures forever. We praise You for Your infinite wisdom and the beauty of Your creation. Your love transforms us and calls us to live in unity and peace, serving those around us. Amen.

\* HYMN #410

*GOD IS CALLING THROUGH THE WHISPER*

"W ZLOBIE LEZY"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before You as a community, aware of our shortcomings and failures. Together, we confess our sins and seek Your forgiveness. We confess that we have not always lived up to the calling You have given us. We have been impatient and unkind, failing to show Your love to those around us. We have held onto grudges and allowed division to take root in our hearts. We have neglected opportunities to be peacemakers and have not always sought unity within the body of Christ.

Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of humility and gentleness. Cleanse our hearts from selfishness and pride. Renew in us a spirit of compassion and grace. Help us to walk in Your ways and to live out the love You have shown us. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #188

*JESUS LOVES ME!*

"JESUS LOVES ME"

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup>there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup>(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

##### ANTHEM

WINGS OF A DOVE  
MEGAN TURNER, GUITAR AND VOCALS

CELTIC PSALMS

##### SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

<sup>17</sup>Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer walk as the gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; <sup>18</sup>they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup>They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup>That is not the way you learned Christ! <sup>21</sup>For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

##### SERMON

"BUILDING KINDNESS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

##### \* HYMN #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

"TWO OAKS"

### 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.)*

##### OFFERTORY

FOR THE GOOD  
KRISTEN TURNER AND MEGAN TURNER

RILEY CLEMONS

##### \* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

##### \* 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 ON OUR WAY REJOICING FRANCES R. HAVERGAL  
AMY BRANAM ARMIENTO, PIANO

\* 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.....Deb Hendrickson
- Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
- Guest Pianist.....Amy Branam Armiento
- Musician.....Megan Turner, guitar and vocals; Kristen Turner
- Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
- Ushers..... Carolyn Matthews and Michael Levitas
- Nursery.....Carolyn Mathews and Linda Mellon

**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 or 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.

**S M T W T F S**  
This week at our Church

**MONDAY, JULY (22)**  
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**TUESDAY, JULY (23)**  
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**WEDNESDAY, JULY (24)**  
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING  
7:00 PM NA MEETING

**THURSDAY, JULY (25)**  
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**FRIDAY, JULY (26)**  
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**SATURDAY, JULY (27)**

**SUNDAY, JULY (28)**  
10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

**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)

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

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of July 14, 2024</b>
Total 2024 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<b>2024 Pledge Balance Promised</b>	<b>\$198,738.00</b>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 115,646.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 106,118.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,527.00

**ONLINE GIVING**

**SUMMER MUSIC:** Our summer music program begins today and goes through Labor Day. If you would like to participate by playing an instrument or joining in song one Sunday this summer, please speak to or contact a choir member or Judie Brown at [browjuda49@gmail.com](mailto:browjuda49@gmail.com). Thank you!!

**SUMMER RETREAT: Behold! I Stand at the Door and Knock! Learn to See as the Mystics See**  
As we prepare for fall, join Rev. Martha for an end-of-summer contemplative retreat on Friday evening August 16<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday morning August 17<sup>th</sup> as we begin to examine the contemplative Christian tradition. On Friday evening, we'll gather around the fire pit in Pastor Alison's yard for dessert, evening prayers, and explore contemplative practice. On Saturday morning, we will spend time at First Presbyterian learning about the history of the mystical tradition in preparation for a course in the fall on the mystics (Thursdays Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>-November 7<sup>th</sup>). The course will be team-taught by Pastor Alison and Rev. Martha and will feature excerpts from Richard Rohr's classic on the mystical tradition, *The Naked Now*.

**To register for the retreat and get a head start on the fall class, RSVP to the church office by August 1<sup>st</sup>. We need eight folks to go forward with the retreat.**

