

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

AUGUST 4, 2024

10:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

AMAZING GRACE
OTTO ROSS, GUITAR

TRADITIONAL

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

All you with grumbling stomachs, hungry for bread, nourishment, and flourishing:

draw near to God.

All you with dry throats, thirsting for water, wisdom, and justice:

draw near to God.

All you with empty arms, searching for a warm embrace, a meaningful life, and a loving community:

draw near to God.

Let us pray -

Triune God, shepherd of your people Israel, you provide for us far more than we expect or imagine possible. Calm our fears; speak peace to us; lead us beyond ourselves. Gather us with all the saints in the church to glorify you for your mighty deeds. We pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #65

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

"CWM RHONDDA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

PSALM 51:1-12

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

DUET

RAIN DOWN

JAMIE CORTEZ

JULIE COURTNEY & JUDITH BROWN, MEZZO-SOPRANOS; NANCY HODGES, PIANO

Rain down, rain down on your love on your people.
 Rain down, Rain down your love, God of life.

Faithful and true is the word of our God.
 All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
 God's mercy falls on the just and the right
 Full of God's love is the earth.
 We who revere and find hope in our God
 Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.
 God will protect us from darkness and death;
 God will not leave us to starve.

Rain down, rain down on your love on your people.
 Rain down, Rain down your love, God of life.

God of creation we long for your truth;
 You the water of life for our thirst.
 Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts.
 All of our hope lies in you.

Rain down, rain down on your love on your people.
 Rain down, Rain down your love, God of life.

SECOND READING

JOHN 6:24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

SERMON

"TELL US HOW"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #519

YOU ARE MY STRENGTH WHEN I AM WEAK (2X)

"JERNIGAN"

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.)

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDREDTH"

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of communion and for Jesus, the bread of life. As we leave this holy meal,
nourish our spirits and strengthen us for the journey ahead. May we embody Your love and compassion, sharing the
good news and serving those in need. Let our lives reflect Your presence within us. Amen.

* HYMN #372

O FOR A WORLD

"AZMON"

* 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

IF YOU WANT JOY
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

TRADITIONAL

* 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/Pianist.....Judith Brown
 Musicians.....Judith Brown and Julie Courtney, Mezzo-Sopranos; Otto Ross, Guitar; Nancy Hodges, Piano
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers..... Kathy Dowell and Sharon Squires
 Nursery.....Cindy Corley



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 worshiping 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 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.



MONDAY, AUGUST (5)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:00 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

TUESDAY, AUGUST (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING
5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
7:00 PM NA MEETING

JOURNEY OF HOPE (OVERNIGHT STAY)

THURSDAY, AUGUST (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, AUGUST (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
BRITTANY OUT OF THE OFFICE

SATURDAY, AUGUST (10)

SUNDAY, AUGUST (11)

10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
11:00 AM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of July 28, 2024
Total 2024 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<u>2024 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$198,738.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 118,713.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 113,701.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 5,012.00

ONLINE GIVING



HOME & GARDEN BOUNTY: On Sunday August 25th, our congregation will be celebrating our summer garden bounty. We are hoping to decorate the sanctuary with our own fruits, vegetables, and flowers, so please bring some of your gardens to share. Following the service, depending on the volume of vegetables and flowers, we will donate our produce to the Union Rescue Mission.

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 16th, and Saturday morning August 17th 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 3rd-November 7th). 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*.

