

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ANDANTE  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM FELTON, ARR. B HESFORD

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS"

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much as to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The way of Christ turns the world upside down.

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It moves us beyond retribution and cycles of violence.

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It leads us to enemy-love and scandalous forgiveness.

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.

**God's ways are not our ways.**

So let us commit our way to the Lord together

**until our righteousness shines like the dawn and our justice like high noon.**

Let us pray -

God of resurrection, throughout the generations you have been forging a path to new life. Though the death-dealing ways of Empire constantly beckon, you call us forth to a different way, reminding us of the power of resurrection. Free us this day from what tries to steal, kill, and destroy, and restore the joy of our salvation, that we might live secure with you. Amen.

\* HYMN #386

COME, WORSHIP GOD

"O QUANTA QUALIA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to love our enemies, but we cling to resentment. You ask us to bless those who curse us, but we seek revenge instead. You teach us to give without expecting in return, but we hold back in fear. Forgive us for the ways we fall short of your radical love. Soften our hearts, open our hands, and reshape us in Your mercy, that we may live as children of the Most High, full of compassion, grace, and generosity. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

## 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

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

## ANTHEM

UNTIL LOVE IS SPOKEN

KAREN MARROLI

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Grant us gentleness in power,  
Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive, to offer grace  
And nurture peace in every place.  
Grant us hope when all seems dire,  
Grant us faith to start a fire, to fiercely burn, to drown the night,  
And set the world ablaze with light.  
And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger,  
Grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.  
Grant us courage to be kind,  
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,  
So only love is spoken here.  
And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight,  
Grant us vigor and entrust us with the power to do what's right.  
Grant us courage to be kind,  
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear  
So only love is spoken here.

## SECOND READING

LUKE 6:27-38

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

## SERMON

"LOVE LEADS TO NEW LIFE"

REV. ELIJAH FEREBEE

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 SOLO

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SEBASTIAN TEMPLE, ARR. LLOYD LARSON

\* DOXOLOGY #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER 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 #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

HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"BARONITA"

Reflective text:  
*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

\* 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**

Guest Preacher.....	Rev. Elijah Ferebee
Liturgist.....	Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Linda Mellon and Ian Gray
Nursery.....	Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland, is called by the Session for **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an elder to the class of 2027.



**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud to be 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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](https://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.

## 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: 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**

**ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of February 16, 2025**

Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
2025 Pledge Balance Promised	\$189,217.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 26,518.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 25,552.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 965.00

**ONLINE GIVING**



**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Join us on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the CHAPEL for a service of reflection and imposition of ashes.



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY (24)**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (25)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (26)**

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (27)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (28)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**SATURDAY, MARCH (1)**

**SUNDAY, MARCH (2)**

11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION  
MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY  
12:00 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



**BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of a few additional volunteers to assist with the Red Cross blood drive that we host at the church once a month. The drives are typically held on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays and volunteers are needed from 12:15-5:00 PM. Volunteers will assist donors with checking in. If you are interested in helping fulfil this need, please reach out to Brittany or Nadene to get additional information regarding upcoming drives.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: 'SHORT STORIES BY JESUS':** Join Pastor Alison on Thursday nights from March 6th-April 10th at 5:00 PM in the Gathering Place as we take a closer look at the parables Jesus shared. Using the book by Amy-Jill Levine, we will seek to make sense of Jesus' words in their original context and in our world today. Come at 5:00 PM for a light dinner provided by our participants and class will run from 5:30-6:30 PM. RSVP to Brittany in the church office.

**FRIENDS OF PEB NEWS:** Thanks to your incredible support, and the generosity of so many like you, we've reached our fundraising goal of \$382,000 to build a brand-new block of classrooms for primary grades at Christian Girls' High School (CGHS) in Martinpur, Pakistan. Construction is already underway, and the building is projected to be done by July 2025.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

## VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023