

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN D MAJOR
ADAGIO.ALLEGRO
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

18TH CENTURY

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD ALONE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"SIMMONS"

All life belongs to God alone, in wilderness and fields.
From fallow land, or plowed and sown, God gives the good it yields.

Till God endows the earth once more with Eden's state of grace,
May we endeavor to restore all land as sacred space.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

(Prayer of the Four Directions and Mother Earth and Father Sky)

Creator is the Center of Creation. The central reality of Creator's plan for the world is the central reality of our lives. As we face each of the four directions, as we kneel to Mother Earth, and as we reach to the Heavens, we will respond in prayer. Following each prayer, we will return to face the center, reminded each time that it is our brother who is able to bring healing and salvation and who, by His Spirit, is able to renew the face of the earth.

First let us all face a center point. *(all face center, pause)*

The start of life's journey, the new day, is the East. It is the place of beginnings, first light, and the possibility of starting again. You have sung us into existence. Let us face East *(all face East, pause)* and let us pray:

Enable us, Creator Spirit, to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. *(all face center, pause)*

The South holds the warmth of summer. It is a time of innocence, of learning and growth. You have sung us into existence. Let us face South *(all face South, pause)* and let us pray:

May we walk good paths, Creator Spirit, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with You renewing the face of the earth. *(all face center, pause)*

The West reminds us of the wisdom of maturity with the approaching of the sunset. It is the time of parenthood, responsibility, and good sense – the time to teach, acknowledge, and give thanks. You have sung us into existence. Let us now face West *(all face West, pause)* and pray that the Spirit of Creator may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray:

We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. *(all face center, pause)*

The North holds the hard, cleansing wisdom of the time of winter and white hair; the elders breathe through the sacred pipe, the grandparents who, on life's great circle, are closest to the little children. You have sung us into existence. Let us face North (*all face North, pause*) and let us pray:

May the air we breathe be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (*all face center, pause*)

From Mother Earth comes all that has life. (*Bend and touch Mother Earth and say*): You have sung us into existence. Let us kneel or symbolically touch Mother Earth and let us pray:

May we walk gently upon the Earth and leave our footprints softly on what we touch.

We raise our hands toward Father Sky. In love, Father Sky embraces all the Earth with His love. (*Raise your hands and extend your palms toward the sky.*) You have sung us into existence. Let us raise our hands to Father Sky and pray:

May we see the vastness of Your arms and feel Your embrace of love at all times. A-Ho and Amen!

* HYMN #21

MANY AND GREAT, O GOD, ARE THY WORKS

"LACQUIPARLE"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Glory be to our Triune God, Creator of the universe.

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

(*Silence for personal prayer and reflection.*)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

"SARADAY"

**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

PSALM 91

¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

² will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;

⁴ he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day

⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰ no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

ANTHEM

DAKOTA HYMN

“LACQUIPARLE”, NATIVE AMERICAN HYMN

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Many and great, O God, are Thy works,
 Maker of earth and sky.

Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
 Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
 Lo, at Thy word, the waters were formed
 Deep seas obey Thy voice.

Thy will, mysterious and so strong
 Brings growth to all the earth
 Food for our souls and clothing to wear
 Are like Thy cup that blesses and fills.
 Provide for us each day of our lives
 Sufficient for our needs

Grant unto us communion with Thee,
 Thou star abiding one.
 Come unto us and dwell with us.
 With Thee are found the gifts of life.
 Bless us with life that has no end,
 Eternal life with Thee.

That day you came to dwell on the earth
 Bringing us all great joy!
 All nations scattered over the world
 To them you gave the light of all life.
 O Lord, compassionate one
 We offer praise to Thee.

SECOND READING

GENESIS 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

CAMP STORIES

BY 2024 CAMP STAFF

THIRD READING

ROMANS 12:9-18

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

SERMON

“LEARNING TOGETHER”

REV. ALISON PETERS

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 ANTHEM

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. LINDA SCHOLES

* 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 #43

YOU WHO DWELL IN THE SHELTER OF THE LORD

"ON EAGLE’S WINGS"

* 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

GIVE THANKS
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.....	Sharon Squires
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....	Julie Courtney
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Jeff and Kathy Getty
Nursery.....	Kathy Dowell and Carol Morgan

Join us after worship today to celebrate Valentine’s Day with the *Peanuts* gang! We will be making Valentines to send to our home bound members and nursing home residents, followed by a special showing of *The Peanuts Movie*. Pizza and movie snacks will be provided and our event is welcome to friends of **all** ages!





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 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.

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**

**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 February 2, 2025
Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
<u>2025 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$189,217.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 21,118.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 18,251.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,866.00

ONLINE GIVING



DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING -
Join us next Sunday, February 16th at 12:30 PM in the Gathering Place to get information about the South Dakota Learning Camp!
Would you be interested in volunteering at this summer's learning camp? Want to learn more? We'd love to answer your questions and tell you about this year's camp and the new exciting format we will follow. Adults of all ages and youth are encouraged to join us! No teaching experience is necessary, just a love for God's children and a willingness to learn. **Camp Dates: July 26th-August 2nd.**



This week at our Church

MONDAY, FEBRUARY (10)

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING
5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (12)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (13)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (14)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (15)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (16)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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.

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.

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 this 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.