

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 16, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

DUST TO DUST
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

MASASHI HAMAUZI

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

GOD IS MY STRONG SALVATION (PSALM 27)
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"WEDLOCK"

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?
In peril and temptation my light, my help is near.
Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand;
What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;
God's truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate.
God's might thy heart shall strengthen; God's love thy joy increase;
Mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?
In times of trouble, God hides us in safety.
In love and mercy, God calls us to love one another.
Let us worship the One who teaches us compassion.
We come to follow Christ's way of love.

Let us pray -

God of boundless love, you break down barriers and expand our understanding of mercy. Open our hearts to see our neighbor in every person we meet. Transform us by your Spirit, that we may love as you love. Amen.

* HYMN #693

THOUGH I MAY SPEAK

"GIFT OF LOVE"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have drawn lines where you erase them. We have turned away from those in need, justified our indifference, and chosen comfort over compassion. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to see with your eyes, love with your heart, and serve with your hands. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #470

THERE IS A LONGING IN OUR HEARTS (Verse 1)

"LONGING"

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *(Refrain)*

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 27

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
² When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.
³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. ⁶ Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
⁸ “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.
⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.
¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

ANTHEM

THE MEDITATIONS OF MY HEART

ELAINE HAGENBERG

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord.
O Lord, my rock, O Lord, my strength, O Lord, my God and redeemer.
-Based on Psalm 19:14

SECOND READING

LUKE 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON

“UNEXPECTED COMPASSION”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #203

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

“CHEREPONI”

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

ADAGIO CANTABILE OP. 13
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

* DOXOLOGY #328

PRAISE GOD, ALL YOU NATIONS

"DA N'ASE"

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise! Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
God's love is great and endures forever. Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

* 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 #727

WILL YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT

"THE SERVANT SONG"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #543

O CHRIST SURROUND ME (Verse 5)

"GREEN TYLER"

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

POSTLUDE

DEO GRACIAS

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

Reflective text:

With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

* 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.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Carl and Jane Belt
Nursery.....	Cindy Corley and Cathy Levitas



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.



This week at our Church

MONDAY, MARCH (17)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH (18)

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (19)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH (20)

LEARNING TREE STONE SOUP PICK UP

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM PEO MEETING
5:00 PM LENTEN STUDY
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH (21)

LEARNING TREE STONE SOUP PICK UP

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (22)

SUNDAY, MARCH (23)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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 March 9, 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	\$ 43,921.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 33,503.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,417.00

ONLINE GIVING



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. Class will run from 5:30-6:30 PM. RSVP to Brittany in the church office.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: On Sunday, March 30th, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People Program are all supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give from your abundance in this time of rebirth.

CHILDREN'S NURSERY: Each Sunday during Lent we will have an activity for kids in the nursery. The kids will "build" the story of Jesus path to resurrection, week by week, learning about the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

PALM SUNDAY STORY TIME WITH MRS. KATIE: Katie Ross will be sharing her gift of storytelling on Palm Sunday! Join us on Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 AM in the Chapel as Katie takes us on an *imaginary journey* back to the first Palm Sunday, as told by Mary of Bethany's point of view.

CRAM BAGS

At our Palm Sunday Brunch Blessing we will be assembling "cram bags" to be donated to FSU students. We hope to provide them with the prayers and motivation they need to survive the end of the semester!

We are asking for donations of individually wrapped snack items (crackers, chips, granola bars, etc.) drinks, instant noodles, candy, personal care items, or monetary donations.

All monetary donations may be turned in Brittany, or given to Cathy Levitas. All items may be placed in the donation box located in the front hallway.

**WE KINDLY ASK THAT ALL DONATIONS
BE TURNED IN BY APRIL 6, 2025.**





Palm Sunday Brunch Blessing

Join us in our “Journey Through Lent” with a pot-luck brunch and Easter blessing!

Following worship on Palm Sunday, 4/13/25, we will enjoy devotions, food, service, and fellowship.

Following brunch we will host our annual Easter egg hunt in the basement and we will stuff “cram bags” for FSU students to enjoy during exam week.

RSVPs strongly encouraged



