

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAGIO IN E MINOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

G. B. PERGOLES (1710-1736)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

HO, ALL WHO THIRST
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"JACOB'S WELL"

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And all whose souls are parched and weary, Come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!

All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Our souls thirst for the living God.

In a dry and weary land, we seek your presence.

God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field.

When we find it, we rejoice with all that we are.

Let us worship the God who offers us immeasurable worth.

With joyful hearts, we come to seek the kingdom.

Let us pray -

God of abundance, you show us the true worth of your kingdom—a value beyond measure, a joy beyond understanding.

May we seek you above all else and find our greatest treasure. Amen.

* HYMN #707

TAKE THOU OUR MINDS, DEAR LORD

"HALL"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, too often we chase after things that do not satisfy. We store up treasures that fade, and we overlook the riches of your kingdom. Forgive us for seeking worth in the wrong places. Turn our hearts toward you, that we may find lasting joy in your love. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #470

THERE IS A LONGING IN OUR HEARTS (Verse 2)

"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 wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear: 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 63:1-8

- ¹ O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶ when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night,
⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

ANTHEM

COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"RESTORATION", ARR. R. TURNER

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh there are ten thousand charms.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 13:44-53

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

SERMON

"UNEXPECTED VALUE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

"BEACH SPRING"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MISSION IN A MINUTE

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. LINDA SCHOLES

* 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 #519

YOU ARE MY STRENGTH WHEN I AM WEAK

"JERNIGAN"

* 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

CWM RHONDDA
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 and The JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	John Mullan and David Stickler
Nursery.....	Julie Courtney, Linda Mellon and Kathy Dowell



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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Neil Smith, by Nancy and Royce Hodges.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 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	\$ 45,671.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 40,153.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 5,517.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, MARCH (24)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH (25)

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (26)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH (27)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING
5:00 PM LENTEN STUDY

FRIDAY, MARCH (28)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (29)

SUNDAY, MARCH (30)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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.

NEW MISSION DESIGNATED FUND- DISASTER RELIEF FUND: In response to input from the congregation, the Mission Committee has established a new “Disaster Relief Fund”. The purpose of this fund is to allow individuals to donate to local and global disaster assistance. Donors may select the cause that is most meaningful to them.

How to donate:

- Write a check or give cash to First Presbyterian Church
 - Memo: Disaster Relief Fund
 - List your cause (i.e. hurricane relief or leave undesignated)
 - Undesignated funds will be directed by the Mission Committee as the need arises.

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 children in the nursery. The children will “build” the story of 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.

Join FPC for our Holy Week Services!

***MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 17TH 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian**

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 20TH

SUNRISE SERVICE at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

CHURCHES ON THE HILL LENTEN WORSHIP

We will join this Lent with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul’s Lutheran for joint worship services:

Palm Sunday (April 13th)- Ecumenical Palm Blessing & Procession on Washington Street Library steps at 9:30 AM to return for our Palm Sunday Story time with Mrs. Katie at 10:00 AM.

Good Friday (April 18th) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12: 00 PM (Service will begin at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul and end at First Presbyterian Church. Transportation will be available for anyone with difficulty walking long distances.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND at 7:30 PM AND SUNDAY, MAY 4TH at 4:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY’S SPRING CONCERT will be the regional premiere of JUBILATE DEO, a seven-movement work for choir and orchestra by DAN FORREST. This work brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, “O be joyful in the Lord, ALL ye lands,” by setting it in SEVEN different languages which exhibit cultural influences and the composer’s own style.

Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese, Zulu, Spanish and English.

“We are all connected!”

An exciting embrace of humanity!

Hope to see you!

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

