

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 30, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAGIO  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

TOMMASO ALBINONI (1671-1751)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

GOD WELCOMES ALL  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR  
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven!

**In the Lord, we find refuge and joy.**

The kingdom of God is like a seed—small but full of life.

**God nurtures growth in unexpected ways.**

Let us trust in the God who makes all things new.

**We come to worship, waiting in hope.**

Let us pray -

God of mystery, you bring forth growth where we least expect it. In small beginnings, you plant the seeds of transformation. Teach us to trust in your work, even when we cannot yet see the harvest. Amen.

\* HYMN #5

GOD THE SCULPTOR OF THE MOUNTAINS

"JENNINGS-HOUSTON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, we confess that we grow impatient with your timing. We want quick results, immediate change, and instant understanding. Forgive us for our restless hearts. Help us to trust that your kingdom is growing, even when it is hidden from our sight. 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 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*  
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*  
6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.  
7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*  
8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.  
10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.  
11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

#### ANTHEM

LACRYMOSA (FROM "REQUIEM" K.626)

W.A. MOZART (1756-1791)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Day of tears and mourning  
When from ashes arise  
All people to be measured  
Have mercy on us, O Lord.

#### SECOND READING

#### MARK 4:26-29

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

#### SERMON

"UNEXPECTED GROWTH"

REV. ALISON PETERS

#### \* HYMN #714

GOD OF THE FERTILE FIELDS

"ITALIAN HYMN"

## 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 (PIANO SONATA NO. 12 IN F MAJOR), K. 332)

W.A. MOZART

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

#### \* 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 #20

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

"ROYAL OAK"

#### \* BENEDICTION

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

JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE

"JESU, MEINE FREUDE"

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

Reflective Text:

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure, truest friend to me;  
Ah. How long I've panted, and my heart has fainted, thirsting, Lord, for thee!  
Thine, I am, O spotless lamb: nothing in the world can hide thee; naught I ask beside thee.

\* 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.....Cathy Levitas  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Dave and Cindy Corley  
Nursery.....Chris and Kelsey Gallo



**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](http://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 4 years of age and younger!

**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**

**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

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>   | <b>as of March 23, 2025</b> |
| 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 | \$ 47,906.00                |
| Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date | \$ 43,804.00                |
| Over/(Under)                         | \$ 4,101.00                 |

### ONLINE GIVING



### MONDAY, MARCH (31)

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING  
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING  
7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING  
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM NA MEETING

### THURSDAY, APRIL (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:00 PM LENTEN STUDY

### FRIDAY, APRIL (4)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### SATURDAY, APRIL (5)

9:00 AM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

### SUNDAY, APRIL (6)

11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**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 (e.g. hurricane relief or leave undesignated)
    - Undesignated funds will be directed by the Mission Committee as the need arises.

**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:** Today, 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian**

**RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

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

**Good Friday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) - 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 2<sup>ND</sup> at 7:30 PM AND SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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!

## EASTER FLOWERS 2025

If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate your selection below. Please also choose if you wish to take your flowers home after the service, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Orders are due by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

|                | Price<br>Each | Quantity           | Total           |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Tulips         | \$7.00        | _____              | \$ _____        |
| Hyacinths      | \$7.00        | _____              | \$ _____        |
| Lily           | \$7.00        | _____              | \$ _____        |
| Chrysanthemums | \$7.00        | _____              | \$ _____        |
|                |               | <b>Total</b> _____ | <b>\$ _____</b> |

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate the flowers \_\_\_\_\_

## EASTER MUSIC 2025

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

*Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.*

Special Music Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.


# 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

