

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

AUGUST 17, 2025

10:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ASHOKAN FAREWELL

JAY UNGAR

(FROM THE SOUNDTRACK OF PBS SERIES "THE CIVIL WAR" (A FILM BY KEN BURNS))

NANCY HODGES, PIANO

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

In a world where lies surround us,
your word is like fire, God nearby!
In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,
your word is like fire, God nearby!
In a world where words don't have meaning,
your word is like fire, God nearby!
We are here, ready for our faith to be kindled by your word.
We are here to worship the God who is nearby!

Let us pray -

God of the ages, when we face raging fires and imprisoning chains, give us the faith of our ancestors. When we encounter the edge of violence, give us the faith of our ancestors. When we are persecuted and tormented by the evils of this world, give us the faith of our ancestors. When we have to go about in disguise because we can't be ourselves, give us the faith of our ancestors. When we wander in deserts and mountains and hide in caves and holes in the ground, give us the faith of our ancestors. Even when we know we may not see the fruit of our labor, even if we can't reach the promised land, give us the faith of our ancestors. We give thanks that perseverance will one day bear fruit, that we don't run this race alone, and that our ancestors go with us now and always. Amen.

* HYMN #29

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

"O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundant grace, we confess that too often we keep our gifts hidden. We doubt our abilities, or we fail to see the needs of others. You call us to use our talents for Your glory, but we hesitate, distracted by fear and complacency. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have turned away from Your call to serve. Ignite within us the fire of Your Spirit, that we may become faithful stewards of Your gifts. Empower us to be bold, loving, and generous, as we live into the mission You have given us. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #551

LORD, HAVE MERCY

"LAND OF REST"

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 80:1-2, 8-19

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;
¹¹ it sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
¹² Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine,
¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted. ¹⁶ It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.
¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SOLO

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD
JANE WESTCOTT, HANDBELLS; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ARR. JASON W. KRUG

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 11:29-12:2

- ²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.
³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.
12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

SERMON

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #730

I SING SONG OF THE SAINTS OF GOD

“GRAND ISLE”

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

RAIN DOWN
JULIE COURTNEY AND JANE WESTCOTT, VOCALISTS; NANCY HODGES, PIANO

JAIME CORTEZ; ARR. BY JOHN CARTER

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

“OLD HUNDREDTH”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS 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 #725

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

"NYLAND"

* 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

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
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.....Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....Julie Courtney, Vocalist; Nancy Hodges, Pianist; Jane Wescott, Vocalist and Handbells
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Carolyn Mathews and Linda Mellon
Nursery.....Rick and Robin Bissell

Join us after worship for a Pool Party from 1:00-4:00 PM at the home of Linda Mellon!



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.





engage them more fully in worship. **Childcare is provided during worship as needed! Please see an usher if you have any questions.**

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.



MONDAY, AUGUST (18)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, AUGUST (19)

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (20)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST (21)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST (22)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, AUGUST (23)

SUNDAY, AUGUST (24)

10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

**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 August 10, 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	\$ 117,244.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 116,810.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 433.00

ONLINE GIVING



SUMMER MUSIC: Our summer music program has started and extends through Sunday, September 14th with our church picnic and worship service at Rocky Gap. If you would like to participate one Sunday by playing an instrument or joining in song please speak to or contact a choir member or Judie Brown at browjuda49@gmail.com. Thank you!!

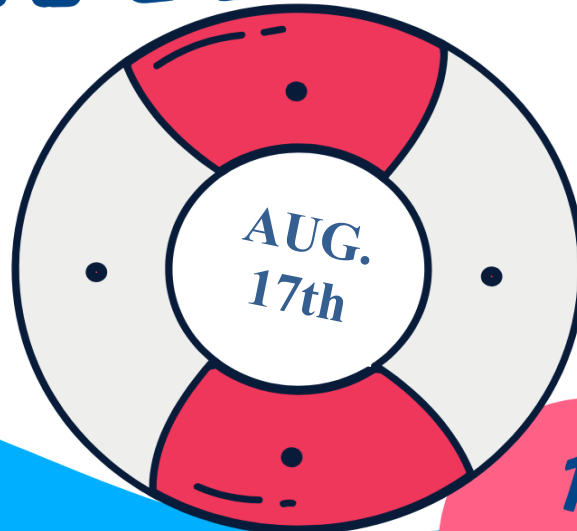


HOME & GARDEN BOUNTY: On Sunday August 24th, our congregation will be celebrating our summer garden bounty. We are hoping to decorate the sanctuary with our own fruits, vegetables, and flowers, so please bring some of your gardens to share. Following the service, depending on the volume of vegetables and flowers, we will donate our produce to the Union Rescue Mission.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God are in Honor and Celebration of Sharon & Bob Kazary's 55th Wedding Anniversary, August 16, 1970. Your commitment, devotion and love for each other and our church is an inspiration to all of us. May your anniversary be filled with joy, love and happiness. Happy Anniversary, Buck & Jane Belt. The single flower vase in front of the sanctuary this morning are from the garden of Bob and Sharond Kazary, thanking God for blessing their 55 years of a loving marriage.

SECOND SUNDAY POOL PARTY



**923 DOLLY TERRACE
LAVALE, MD**

**1-4
PM**

Your Congregational Care Committee would like to invite you to join us in fellowship and fun for a Second Sunday Pool Party! Light snacks will be provided. Bring a towel and join us!

**WATER
AEROBICS**

**VOLLEYBALL
(BEACH BALL)**

BASKETBALL

FPC T-SHIRT ORDERS

T-shirts are available in **tan or navy!** Please specify your color and size when ordering! All shirts are \$10 and may be paid via check/cash to Faith Formation members, Brittany, or by QR code.



Youth Sizes run as follows: 2-4 (XS), 6-8 (S), 10-12 (M), 14-16(L)

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