

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 31, 2025 10:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ANGEL OF HOPE
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

DAVID LANZ

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who delight in God's commandments.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright.
Those who love God are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
They are generous, sharing freely what they have received.
It is well with those who live in justice.
Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid.
Let us praise the Lord!

Let us pray -

Lord of Hosts, King of Kings, you sit in the place of honor. We pray that we might have a seat near you today, not to boost our egos or build ourselves up, but so that we might draw closer to the hopes you have for us, so that we might gain understanding of the kingdom you desire. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #203

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

"CHEREPONI"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy and grace, you call us to live with steadfast hearts, to love one another as siblings, to welcome the stranger, to offer praise with our lips and goodness with our lives. Yet we confess we fall short.
We close our doors rather than open our hands. We cling to what we have instead of trusting in you. We forget to honor our promises, to seek justice, to share what we've been given. Forgive us, Lord.
Write your generosity on our hearts. Teach us to live with courage and compassion, to do good and to share without fear, so that our lives may reflect your light and bring glory to your name. 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 112

- ¹ Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.
² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.
⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.
⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.
⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.
¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

SOLO

ELEGY

GLEN GILLIS

CHRIS KELLERMEYER, ALTO SAXOPHONE; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 13:1-16

¹³ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. ¹³ Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

SERMON

"CLOSING REMARKS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #183

COME TO ME, O WEARY TRAVELER

"AUSTIN"

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

IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS (ELIJAH)
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1810-1847)

* 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 #611

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, LORD WE ADORE THEE

"HYMN TO JOY"

* 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

IF YOU WANT JOY

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

TRADITIONAL

* 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
Musician.....Chris Kellermeyer, Alto Saxophone
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Deb Hendrickson and Kathy Dowell
Nursery.....Mitch Peters and Cathy Levitas

OUR FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS next Sunday, September 7th. Worship begins at 11:00 AM during the fall months.



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. **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, SEPTEMBER (1)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (2)

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (3)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (4)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (5)

8:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (6)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (7)

10:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
HOLY COMMUNION

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 24, 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	\$ 124,111.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 120,794.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (3, 317.00)

ONLINE GIVING



Our Back to School Blessing and Childcare Volunteer Appreciation Sunday will be celebrated on September 7th! We would like to present our childcare volunteers with a small token of appreciation from the Faith Formation Team. We will also be praying over all students and teachers returning to school for the new school year. Service will also include a " chiming of the hour" by our young disciples. All young disciples are invited to join us!

FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC: Join us on Sunday, September 14th at Rocky Gap State Park for our Fall Kick-off worship service. The service will begin at 11:00 AM at the White Pine Pavilion on the left-hand side of Pleasant Valley Road. Attendees should wear comfortable clothes suitable for the weather. Bring chairs for personal comfort. Plan to stay for a picnic potluck lunch and social time together. The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee will be providing fried chicken and pulled pork. There is a sheet on the table outside of Brittany's office to sign up to bring a dish. Lawn games and board games will be provided. We invite you to bring your favorite games to share! In the event that the forecast for that Sunday morning is for steady rain/wind, the service, potluck and picnic fun will be held inside the church. Announcement of the decision to move indoors will be made on Saturday through the various methods we have of notifying members of a change in plans.

Hike for the Homeless

We are excited to announce the date for the Fourth Annual Hike for the Homeless! This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 27th, 2025. As was the case for last year, the beginning and ending of the hike will be at the main beach area in Rocky Gap State Park. Lakeside Loop Trail of Rocky Gap will be the main trail; however, participants are encouraged to hike and explore any trail in the park that day. Guided hikes will be provided by URM staff.

The official hike will begin at 9:00 AM, with a picnic planned for 12:00 PM at the beach as an official wrap-up of the event. Registration tables will open at 8:30 AM for those who choose to register at the hike itself. Hydration and snack tables will be along the Lakeside Loop Trail for your convenience. Our hope is to encourage families, teams, and individuals of all ages to participate in this outdoor activity while bringing awareness to the needs of the homeless and impoverished community.

Hike for the Homeless Registration

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

IN Person Hike _____ Virtual Hike _____

Shirt Size: No Shirt ____ XS ____ S ____ M ____ Large ____ XL ____ 2XL ____

Please place this in the offering plate or return it to Brittany. Thanks to all who participate!