

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
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GAVOTTE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL WESLEY (1766-1837)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

YOUNG DISCIPLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND PRAISE THE LORD!
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Open your mouth and praise the Lord
Clap your hands; O clap your hands!
Dance to God; O dance to God!
Praise the Lord; O praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord; the Lord is good!

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God sees the poor and lifts them up.
God raises the lowly and seats them with honor.
We bring our prayers and thanksgivings for all people.
For nothing is too small or too great for God's care.
There is one God, and Christ Jesus is our mediator.
He gave himself for all, so that we might know we are loved.
Come, let us worship the God who hears and saves.
We worship with gratitude and joy!

Let us pray -

Great God, maker and reconciler of the earth and all that dwells here, champion of the poor, who humbles the proud, draw all people into new unity with you. May we know to whom we belong and act faithfully to care for what you have entrusted to us. Help us all, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. Amen.

* HYMN #708

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

"SCHUMANN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD (Verse 1)

"SARADAY"

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me.

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 113

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

² Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

⁴ The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

⁶ who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

ANTHEM

HYMN OF PROMISE

NATALIE SLEETH

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in ev'ry silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Alleluia!

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6

² First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.

SERMON

"DEEP IN THE HEART OF PRAYER"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #346

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

"ST. THOMAS (WADE)"

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 ANTHEM

FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN – PSALM 113

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same.
The name of the Lord shall be praised.
So praise ye the Lord!!

* DOXOLOGY #658

GOD IS SO GOOD (Verse 1)

"GOD IS SO GOOD"

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.

* 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 #66

EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT

"PENTECOST"

* 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

VOLUNTARY IN B FLAT
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MAURICE GREENE (1695-1755)

* 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
Musician.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Cindy Corley and Kathy Dowell
Childcare.....	Linda Mellon and Mitch Peters



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.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Betty Luger's 95th birthday today, by her family and by the Lander family.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (22)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (23)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (24)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (25)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (26)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (27)

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (28)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 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

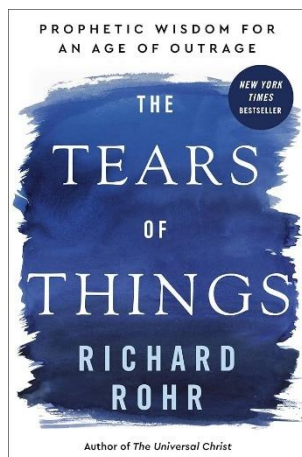
ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 14, 2025

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	\$ 132,480.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 135,062.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (2, 581.00)

ONLINE GIVING



Adult Sunday School resumed this morning and we will be continuing our study from September until Advent. We will be using N.T. Wright's, *Revelation* to get a "remarkably clear glimpse into God's ultimate design for the entire creation. We will be looking into how Jesus the Messiah's triumph and the resulting costly victory of his followers overcome the powerful evil forces at work, particularly with idolatrous and oppressive political systems." Class will begin at 10:00 AM in the Dakota Room, but fellowship is always welcome, beginning at 9:45 AM! **Sign up and pick up your book in Brittany's office.**



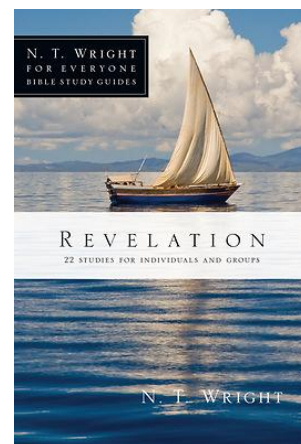
Join us this fall for an adult Bible Study. We will meet on Thursday evenings in the Gathering Space, beginning Thursday, October 9th and ending on Thursday, November 13th.

How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? How do we manage conflict and suffering in our lives and in the world? Holy Scripture gives us wisdom and practice, particularly through the lives and writings of the Hebrew prophets. Using Richard Rohr's new book *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for An Age of Outrage* as a guide, we will study the writings of the prophets—particularly, Amos Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel.

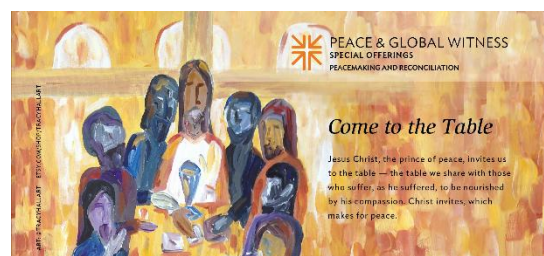
Rev Martha and Pastor Alison will facilitate and lead this six-week course. We will begin at 5:00 PM with a light supper and fellowship. Then we will proceed with our study from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

Please RSVP to Brittany, (301) 777-3700, or firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com by September 28th.

Books will be provided and can be picked up in the church office beginning October 5th, or at our first class. A sign-up sheet to volunteer to provide a meal during one of the classes will also be available on October 9th.



PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERINGS: The arrival of the Fall season also marks the time for The Peace and Global Witness Offering. This offering draws Presbyterians together. It provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and helps us to provide nurturing reconciliation and to stand in support of our global sisters and brothers because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.



A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering locally. Our portion of the monies collected will go to help support a program here in Cumberland, to be determined and announced after prayerful discussion. Our Baltimore Presbytery retains an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, here and abroad through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Please consider giving generously to this Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025. Write your check to First Presbyterian Church, and in the memo line, note Special Offering.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: The Worship and Music Committee will be setting the communion table on October 5th for World Communion Sunday complete with breads of the world set on cloth from around the globe.

Please look through your linen closets and cedar chests for fabrics you have collected from other countries and lend them to us for that day. We will layer the communion table with them. Plexiglass will protect them from spills and crumbs. Label your fabric with your name so we can be sure to return them to you the following week.

If you have any interesting baskets that we can use to hold various breads, please lend them to us for a few days and again label them with your name. Please drop off your fabrics and baskets in the volunteer office by Thursday, October 2nd. Thank you.

Hike for the Homeless

We are excited to announce the date for the Fourth Annual Hike for the Homeless, sponsored by the Union Rescue Mission. This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025. As was the case 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. The 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!



TRUNK OR TREAT

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL
OCTOBER 12TH 2025

To celebrate our Second Sunday Social in October we will be having refreshments and fellowship immediately following worship in The Gathering Place.

We will also be hosting our annual Trunk-or-Treat event from 1 - 3 pm, in our parking lot.

****We are looking for volunteers to decorate their trunks, as well as donations of candy to distribute!**

If you plan to set up, please RSVP to Brittany or Kelsey by 10/5. Candy donations may be placed in the volunteer office!

Thank you for all your help in hosting this event!



HARVEST PARTY

PUMPKIN CARVING, BOARD
GAMES, HALLOWEEN SNACKS

*** NO COSTUMES REQUIRED! ***

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON ST.

Friday, October 17th
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

PLEASE RSVP TO 301-777-3700 OR
FIRSTPRESBYTERIANSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM