

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



*Empowered to love, serve, care, and give*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN F. ALLEGRO  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM HINE

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

YOUNG DISCIPLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

SING, PRAISE AND BLESS THE LORD  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR  
Sing, praise and bless the Lord  
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

LAUDATE DOMINUM (TAIZE)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in God's holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways, God, and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.**

Let us pray

God of light, into the shadows of our isolation you speak words of life and community. Challenger of our lives, you call us from places we call home to lead us more deeply into the world you love. With your gentle, healing touch you redeem the broken places of our lives and you heal the wounded places of the earth. Inspire our worship here this day, so that we may receive liberation in your word, and be filled to overflowing to share your reconciling love throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

\* HYMN #41

O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE!

"LYONS"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not always loved you. You constantly call us, but we let the world define us as unworthy. You ask us to love but we walk away from neighbors in need, curled in on our own concerns. You condemn evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and truth, admit our sins, and gracefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. 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 91:1-6, 14-16

<sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

<sup>2</sup> will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;

<sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day <sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness

<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

#### ANTHEM

LET ALL THE WORLD IN EV'RY CORNER SING  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"AUGUSTINE"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
My God and King!

The heavens are not too high, God's praise may thither fly;  
The earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow.

The church with psalms must shout: no door can keep them out.  
But, more than all, the heart must bear the longest part.

#### SECOND READING

MATTHEW 8:5-13

<sup>5</sup> When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him <sup>6</sup> and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." <sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." <sup>8</sup> The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and will take their places at the banquet with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup> while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup> And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

#### SERMON

"AMAZING FAITH"

JOSH GILHART

#### \* HYMN #786

WHY STAND SO FAR AWAY, MY GOD?

"MORNING SONG"

### 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

VOLUNTARY IN F- ALLEGRO MODERATO  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM HINE

#### \* 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.

\* 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

RISING SUN  
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

|                                                    |                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Guest Speaker .....                                | Josh Gilhart                      |
| Liturgist.....                                     | Cathy Levitas                     |
| Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist..... | Judith Brown                      |
| Musicians.....                                     | The Sanctuary Choir               |
| Audio/Video Technicians.....                       | Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler    |
| Ushers.....                                        | Sharon Squires and David Stickler |
| Childcare.....                                     | Rick and Robin Bissell            |



**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](https://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.



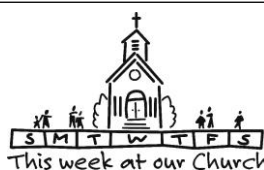
The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in memory of Walter L. and Patricia A. Workman, our brother and sister-in-law, by Bill and Amy Workman.

## 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)



### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (29)

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (30)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (1)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
12:15 PM STAFF MEETING  
5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING  
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM NA MEETING

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER (2)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER (3)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER (4)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER (5)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

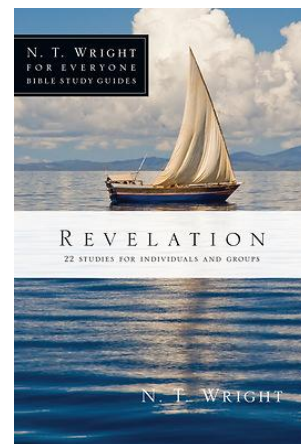
### ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 21, 2025

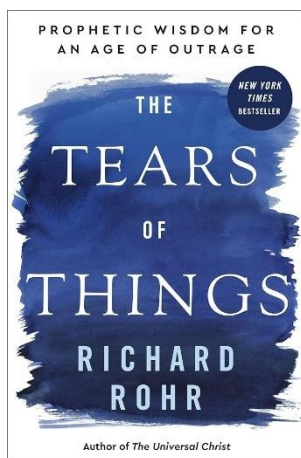
|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total 2025 Pledges Promised          | \$237,796.00        |
| Pre-paid pledges                     | \$ 48,578.00        |
| <u>2025 Pledge Balance Promised</u>  | <u>\$189,217.00</u> |
| Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date | \$ 136,225.00       |
| Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date | \$ 138,712.00       |
| Over/(Under)                         | \$ (2, 487.00)      |

### ONLINE GIVING



Join us for Adult Sunday School at 9:45 AM in the Dakota Room. 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."





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.

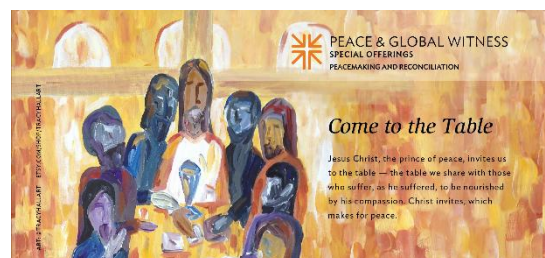
How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? How do we manage conflict and suffering in our lives and in the world? Holy Scripture gives us wisdom and practice, particularly through the lives and writings of the Hebrew prophets. Using Richard Rohr's new book *The Tears of Things: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

Books will be provided and can be picked up in the church office beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.





# TRUNK OR TREAT

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL  
OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 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!

The background of the flyer is decorated with various autumn-themed illustrations. There are several pumpkins with different carved faces: some are smiling, some are spooky with wide eyes and mouths, and one is a small gourd with a simple face. Interspersed among the pumpkins are various types of leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, along with thin, winding vines.

# 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