

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MILLER AND JACKSON

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

YOUNG DISCIPLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

WE ARE MARCHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

“SIYAHAMBA”

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Through desolation and weeping,
God's love holds us fast.
Through bitterness and fear,
God's mercy does not end.
Through anguish and suffering,
God's faithfulness is new every morning.
Through destruction and violence,
God is still our hope.
The Lord is our portion;
Therefore, we will hope in God.
Trust in the Lord, and do good;
We will delight in the Lord.
Commit your way to the Lord;
We will trust God, who will act.

Let us pray -

God of grace, mercy, and peace, through the trials and tribulations of life, many burdens fill our souls with strife. Instill in us sincere faith and grant us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline, that we may worship with humility and steadfast trust and respond to your holy calling, according to your will. Amen.

* HYMN #310

I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD

“ST. THOMAS”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have called us to one table, yet we confess that we often live as if some are more welcome than others. You break down dividing walls, yet we build them up with pride, fear, and suspicion. You offer us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, yet we hoard your gifts, doubt your abundance, and forget that your love knows no borders. Forgive us, O Lord. Open our hands to share freely, open our hearts to love boldly, and open our lives to live as one body, so that the world may taste and see your goodness in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

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 37:1-9

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- ² for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and enjoy security.
- ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

ANTHEM

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS
(See Hymn # 102 for text.)
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. MICHAEL BURKHARDT

SECOND READING

LAMENTATIONS 3:19-26

- ¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
- ²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
- ²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
- ²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
- ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- ²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
- ²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
- ²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

SERMON

"THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #817

WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

"DUNLAP'S CREEK"

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 QUARTET

YOUR LOVE IS EXTRAVAGANT
ALISON PETERS, MIKAYLA DODGE, ERIC RINGLER, AND ZACH DODGE; MUSICIANS

DARRELL EVANS

Your love is extravagant
Your friendship is intimate.
I feel like moving to the rhythm of your Grace
Your fragrance is intoxicating in a secret place
'cause your love is extravagant.
Spread wide in the arms of Christ is the love that covers sin,
No greater love have I ever known;
You consider me a friend and capture my love again.
Your love is extravagant
Your friendship is intimate.

* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*(Communion will be served this morning in a traditional manner –
servers will pass the plate with bread and the tray with cups of juice individually.
Servers will have gluten-free crackers in a separate container for those who need it.
Please hold the bread and juice until all have been served, and you will be invited to partake together.)*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PASSING OF THE PLATE *(please wait until all have been served)*

SHARING OF THE CUP *(please wait until all have been served)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with your steadfast love. In bread and cup we have tasted your mercy, new every morning and sure in every season. Send us from this table with patience, hope, and peace, that our lives may bear witness to the greatness of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #39 GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS “FAITHFULNESS”

* 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 CORNET VOLUNTARY STARLING GOODWIN (18TH CENTURY)
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

- PreacherRev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Brenda Luger
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musician.....Mikayla Dodge, Zach Dodge, Alison Peters and Eric Ringler; Vocalists
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell and Cathy Levitas
Childcare.....Cindy Corley and Sharon Squires



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.

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**



MONDAY, OCTOBER (6)

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER (7)

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (8)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER (9)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:30 PM FALL BOOK STUDY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER (10)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER (11)

9:30 AM P.E.O. MEETING
7:00 PM WAE EVENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER (12)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
STEWARDSHIP KICK OFF
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL
1:00 PM TRUNK OR TREAT

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

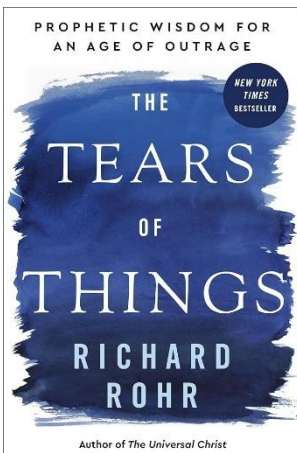
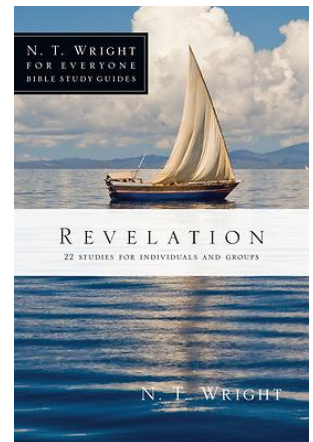
ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 21, 2025

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	\$ 140,965.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 142,363.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (1,397.00)

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.

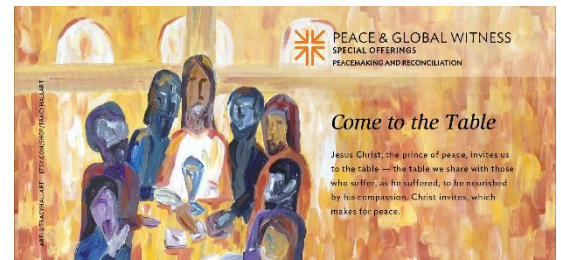
How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? How do we manage conflict and suffering in our lives and in the world? Holy Scripture gives us wisdom and practice, particularly through the lives and writings of the Hebrew prophets. Using Richard Rohr's new book *The Tears of Things: 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 toady.

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, today. Write your check to First Presbyterian Church, and in the memo line, note Special Offering.

WORLD ARTISTS EXPERIENCES (WAE) will present a free program in our sanctuary on Saturday, October 11th at 7:00 PM. Italian composer, conductor, and pianist Federico Longo, and opera singer Marielle Guarnera, will use music selections, videos, and voice to explain how a composer works. At the end, he will direct four local musicians, using techniques from his presentation. He and Marielle also performed here in 2022. See Linda Smith for more information.



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!

The background of the flyer is decorated with various autumn-themed illustrations. At the top, there are several colorful leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and purple, along with a small blue flower. A green vine with yellow leaves curves around the top left. On the right side, a green vine with yellow leaves curves around a pumpkin. At the bottom, there are more colorful leaves and a green vine with yellow leaves. The text is arranged in the center, surrounded by these decorative elements.

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**