

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
NOVEMBER 23, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

MARCH (OCCASIONAL OVERTURE)  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

SING TO THE LORD OF HARVEST  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices our alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God gathers the scattered and brings us home.

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

God raises up a righteous one to bring justice and peace.

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

God forgives, heals, and saves.

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

God's tender mercy brings light to those in darkness and guides our feet in peace.

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

Let us pray -

Image of the invisible God, firstborn of all creation, Prince of Peace, word through whom all things were made, rule our minds and hearts with justice born of righteousness and mercy born of love. Guide us to participate in your kingdom, where all God's people have a share in the strength that comes from God's glorious power. Amen.

\* HYMN #463

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

"FOUNDATION"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we struggle with your kind of kingship. We like power that looks impressive, victory that feels certain, and control that keeps us comfortable. Yet Christ reigns with humility, choosing service instead of status and truth instead of convenience.

We confess that we chase smaller kingdoms, seeking our own way, our own security, our own approval. We confess the ways we ignore your call to love boldly, to act justly, and to follow Jesus into places we would rather avoid.

Forgive us, merciful God. Turn us again toward the One who is our hope, our center, and our true Lord. Shape us into people who reflect Christ's reign in our words, our choices, and our lives. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #187

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US (Verse 3)

"BRADBURY"

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;

you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

## 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 46

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*  
<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.  
<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.  
<sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*  
<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.  
<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

#### ANTHEM

QUODLIBET ON NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD  
AND PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

ARR. WILLARD A. PALMER

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom my heart rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
O my soul, praise Him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
And blessed peace to cheer us.  
And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed  
Join the full throng; wake, harp and psalter and song;  
And free us from all harm in this world and the next!  
Sound forth in glad adoration!  
All praise and thanks to God  
Praise to the Lord, Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
The Father now be given;  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
With them in highest heaven;  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore!  
Let the Amen! Sound from His people again;  
For thus it was, it now, and shall be ever more!  
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

#### SECOND READING

LUKE 23:33-43

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## 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 DUET

LAUDAMUS TE ("GLORIA")

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

KATELYN HENDRIX, SOPRANO; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.

### \* DOXOLOGY #643

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD (Verse 3)

"NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT"

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### PRAYER 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 #852

WHEN THE LORD REDEEMS THE VERY LEAST

"I'LL FLY AWAY"

### \* 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

ST. ANNE

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

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\* 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.....	Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; Katelyn Hendrix, Soprano; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Sharon Squires and Kathy Dowell
Childcare.....	Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy

Please note that the church office will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Thanksgiving.





**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.

## 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)**

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

**ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of November 16, 2025**

Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
2025 Pledge Balance Promised	\$189,217.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 167,088.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 167,915.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (826.00)

**ONLINE GIVING**



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**BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER:** On Friday, November 28th, Jane O' Rourke will be turning 101 years old! We would like to help her celebrate by showering her with birthday cards. If you would like to send a birthday greeting, please use the address below to send your warm wishes.

Jane O'Rourke  
 Egle Nursing Home  
 59 Jackson St  
 Lonaconing, MD 21539-1307

**HANGING OF THE GREENS:** Join us after worship on **Sunday, November 30th** for our "Hanging of the Greens" event. Lunch will be provided and we will begin an ongoing intergenerational project. Young Disciples will begin their advent project, *Ponder Your Hearts*, following lunch in the childcare room. All ages are welcome to participate in the decorating of the church. Join us for an afternoon of Christmas cheer designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ.



**SAMARITAN'S PURSE:** Operation Christmas Child is seeking volunteers to help inspect and send off packed shoe boxes to children this Christmas season. The processing center is located in Windsor Mill, MD and carpool opportunities are available.

**TUESDAY, December 2nd. 2-5 PM. OR THURSDAY, December 11th 1-4 PM.**

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kelsey Gallo or email [firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Join the Cumberland Choral Society on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th** at 7:30 PM OR **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th** at 4:00 PM here at FPC!

The CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY will be presenting its winter concerts during the first weekend of December and we hope you will be able to attend one of them. We will be presenting the 18th century holiday favorite "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi and a selection of five pieces from our world today which will comprise a 21st century "Gloria." Composers such as Dan Forrest, Kyle Pederson and Leonard Cohen will be featured. The concert will feature professional musicians, both instrumentalists and vocal soloists, as well as choral society members. Come one, come all!



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER (24)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 5:00 PM LADIES BOOK CLUB  
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (25)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (26)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
 BRITTANY IN THE OFFICE UNTIL NOON  
 6:30 PM JOYBELL REHEARSAL  
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (27)**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER (28)**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER (29)**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (30)**

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:  
 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 PONDER: HOPE  
 12:15 PM HANGING OF THE GREENS

## Christmas Poinsettias 2025

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary at the Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$7.50 for each poinsettia, marking "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA" in the memo line.

Number of poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$7.50 each

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my poinsettia: ☐

I wish to donate my poinsettia: ☐

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your order no later than Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Music Offering 2025



If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check with "Christmas Music 2025" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit this offering and dedication no later than Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL GIFT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_