

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
JANUARY 11, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

AMERICAN TRADITIONAL, ARR. STEVEN NAYLOR

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

DOWN GAILEE'S SLOW ROADWAYS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"WEST MAIN"

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
It seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.

The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

In the waters of baptism,
God marks us as kindred in his name.
In the waters of baptism,
the heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.
In the waters of baptism,
God names us Beloved.
In the waters of baptism,
God claims us.

Let us pray -

Jesus, Beloved Son of God, all that you ask of us, you first did yourself. Help us to follow the way you first traveled: to serve others and to let ourselves be served; to love stranger and neighbor, enemy and friend. When we struggle, remind us of our baptism, the waters that quench the soul's deepest thirst, and unite our hearts as one, so that we can carry out your work. Amen.

* HYMN #610

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

"AZMON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we are incredibly stubborn. We have entered the season in which your light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #414

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

"PSALM 46"

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBER

LOIS MCMANUS

QUESTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? I do.

Do you trust Him? I do.

Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His word and to show His love? I do.

Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church and this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be? I will, with God's help.

MEMBERSHIP PRAYER

WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

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 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

ANTHEM

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased."

SERMON

"HEARING GOD'S VOICE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #543

GOD, BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME

"GRENN TYLER"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange or blue prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A CANON OF PRAISE

W.A. MOZART; ARR. ALICE CARPENTER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Make a joyful noise to God all ye lands.

Serve with gladness; draw near to God with a joyful heart.

Come before God's presence with singing;

Into His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise.

* 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

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 #480

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

"TAKE ME TO THE WATER"

* 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

DUKE STREET
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

Preacher.....Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Wesley Mason
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Bill Buttermark and Linda Mellon
Nursery.....Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee wishes to invite you to celebrate the new year in the Gathering Place following worship today. Drinks and a light lunch will be served.



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 or blue 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, JANUARY (12)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY (13)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:30 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (14)

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY (15)

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY (16)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY (17)

SUNDAY, JANUARY (18)

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 January 4, 2026
Total 2026 Pledges Promised	\$271,126.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 70,507.00
<u>2026 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$200,618.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 7,655.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 3,892.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 3,762.00

ONLINE GIVING



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.