

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
JANUARY 4, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

FRENCH CAROLS

ARR. NINO BORUCCHIA

ON ENTEND PARTOUT CARILLON (THE BELLS)

LES PARADIS TERRESTRE (A REDEEMER)

NOUS SOMMES TROIS SOUVERAINS PRINCES (3 KINGS)

LE FILS DU ROI DE GLOIRE (SON OF GLORY)

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

WHAT STAR IS THIS, WITH BEAMS SO BRIGHT
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“PUER NOBIS NASCITUR”

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
‘Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Though darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the people, the Lord rises upon us.

Nations shall come to the light, and kings to the brightness of God’s dawn.

We lift our eyes and look around—God’s glory is on the move.

Come, let us worship the God who calls us to rise and shine.

We come to worship, drawn by the light of Christ.

Let us pray -

Holy God, you revealed your light to the nations through a star in the sky and a child in a manger. Open our eyes to see your glory, open our hearts to receive your grace, and open our lives to reflect your light. As we worship today, may we rise from complacency and shine with hope, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

* HYMN #141

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

“PERSONENT HODIE”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, you call us to rise and shine, yet we often choose comfort over courage and familiarity over faith. You invite us to follow the light, but we cling to paths we already know. Like Herod, we fear change; like the religious leaders, we know the words but hesitate to move our feet. Forgive us for the ways we dim your light— in our silence, our indifference, and our failure to welcome the Christ who arrives in unexpected ways. Turn us again toward your light, that we may rise, shine, and follow where you lead. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #576

LORD, HAVE MERCY

“SINGAPURA”

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

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

MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ANTHEM

O MORNING STAR
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"WIE SCHON LEUCHET"

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior,
You have won our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure.
Let your mercy warm and cheer us, O draw near us!
For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

What joy to know when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!
He will one day, O glorious grace, transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, Crown of gladness!
We are yearning for the day of your returning.

SECOND READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

"KINGS OF ORIENT"

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

(Please see hymn 151 for text.)

* DOXOLOGY #607

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"PRAISE GOD (HOPSON)"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for meeting us at this table, for feeding us with the bread of heaven and filling us with the light of Christ. As we rise from this place, send us out to shine— in our words, our choices, and our love. May we reflect your glory in a world still longing for hope, until all nations walk in your light and all creation rejoices in your peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #150

AS WITH GOODNESS MEN OF OLD

"DIX"

* 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

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

* 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.....Carl Belt
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Bill Buttermark and Carolyn Mathews



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.

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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and William Ludman, by Dorothy Malcolm and family.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of December 28, 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	\$ 186,274.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 189,817.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (3,543.00)

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.



MONDAY, JANUARY (5)

7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:30 PM	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
7:00 PM	CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY (6)

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (7)

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY (8)

7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
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FRIDAY, JANUARY (9)

7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
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SATURDAY, JANUARY (10)

SUNDAY, JANUARY (11)

9:45 AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM	SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
12:00 PM	SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee wishes to invite you to usher in the new year following worship on Sunday, January 11, 2025 in the Gathering Place. Drinks and a light lunch will be served.

Sunday School — The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Building & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 AM. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be made by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and on the church website.

Worship — Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Building & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and on the church website.

