

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAIO
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHN BENNETT (1735-1784)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

When God's people cry out,
God hears.
When silence is broken,
God begins to act.
As we open our mouths
God's voice is heard throughout the land.

Let us pray -

God of the unheard, you listen when we dare to speak. You hear the words we whisper and the words we scream. Break our silence where it binds us, when we let our fear keep us from speaking the truth. Teach us to cry out—not in despair, but in trust of your promises. Amen.

* HYMN #57

TREMBLE, O TREMBLE

"TROMBLEY"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have learned to live quietly with injustice. We have mistaken endurance for faithfulness and silence for peace. We live in passive ways that leave us shaking our heads and wondering how this could be possible. Forgive us for the cries we have swallowed, and the voices we have ignored. Interrupt our silence, O God, and teach us to speak again. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #695

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

"CHANGE MY HEART"

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; May I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

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 77:1-9

¹ I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me. ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. ³ I think of God, and I moan; I meditate, and my spirit faints. *Selah* ⁴ You keep my eyelids from closing; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

⁵ I consider the days of old and remember the years of long ago.

⁶ I commune with my heart in the night; I meditate and search my spirit:

⁷ "Will the Lord spurn forever and never again be favorable?"

⁸ Has his steadfast love ceased forever? Are his promises at an end for all time?

⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" *Selah*

ANTHEM

GAELIC BLESSING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

JOHN RUTTER

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

SECOND READING

EXODUS 2:11-25

¹¹ One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting, and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. So Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian and sat down by a well. ¹⁶ The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" ¹⁹ They said, "An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." ²⁰ He said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to share a meal." ²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. ²² She bore a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land." ²³ After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. ²⁴ God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

SERMON

"WHEN SILENCE BREAKS INTO CRY"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #69

I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY

"HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MOMENT FOR MISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA SOUP SALE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

* DOXOLOGY #300

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT (Verse 4)

“THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS”

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive these gifts, O God, as signs that we trust you with our voices and our lives.
Use them to loosen chains, amplify truth, and to answer cries we have yet to hear. Amen.

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 #741

GUIDE MY FEET

“GUIDE MY FEET”

* 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

GENEVA
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.....	Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	John Mullan and David Stickler
Nursery.....	Randy and Nadene Stroup



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, FEBRUARY (23)

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (24)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (25)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (26)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING
- 5:00 PM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (27)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (28)

- 9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH (1)

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of February 15, 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	\$ 40,782.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 27,248.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 13,533.00

ONLINE GIVING



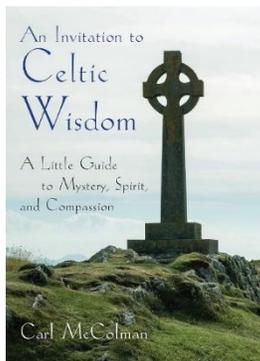
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - LENT: The Adult Sunday School class is going to be studying Walter Brueggeman's *Interrupting Silence, God's Command to Speak Out* during Lent. "Silence is a complex matter. It can refer to awe before unutterable holiness, but it can also refer to coercion where some voices are silenced in the interest of control by the dominant voices. It is that latter silence that is the primary focus of the studies." Join us as we start this Sunday, February 22nd. Let Brittany or Ann Kellermeyer (akellermeyer@me.com) know or just show up. Books are in Brittany's office.



AN INVITATION TO CELTIC WISDOM: A LENTEN BOOK STUDY
Thursdays: February 19th-March 26th (5:00 PM-6:30 PM) Dinner will be provided.

This six-week Lenten class taught by Pastor Alison invites us to explore the depth and beauty of Celtic Christian spirituality using Carl McColman's *An Invitation to Celtic Wisdom*. Together we will journey through three themes—The Celtic Mystery, The Celtic Saints, and Walking the Celtic Path.

Our final class will be a virtual 'fireside chat' with the author, who will answer our questions and help us to close out our time together.

Grounded in Scripture and shaped by prayer, silence, creation, and community, this class offers a contemplative approach to Lent that encourages attentiveness to God's presence in everyday life and prepares our hearts to walk toward Easter with renewed compassion and hope.

SPRING FORWARD: This is just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour!



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP-CHILI COOK-OFF: Join us after worship on Sunday, March 8th for our Second Sunday Social Chili Cook-Off! Bring a crockpot of your best chili or just bring your appetite. Cornbread and toppings will be provided. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Kelsey Gallo at 240-727-7735 or firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com.

YOUNG DISCIPLES TRAINING: Faith Formation will be hosting a "training" for our young disciples on Sunday, March 15th, following worship. Members of our team will be demonstrating and explaining how our youth can become more involved in our service. Pizza will served!

Our young disciples will learn how to assist in:

- Chiming of the hour
- Ushering
- Acolyte
- Childcare Assistant
- Serving Communion
- After worship clean up
- Tech Support

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SECOND SUNDAY SOCIALS:

Pastor Alison's Baby Shower in the Fellowship Hall
April 12, 2026 - following worship
Food provided by Congregational Care Committee: TBD
Baby Registry: Amazon "Alison Peters" and Baby list "Alison Peters"
Gifts are optional

SOUP SALE FUNDRAISER

Benefiting First Presbyterian's 2026
Learning Camp Mission trip to
South Dakota - July 25th-Aug 1st



PICK UP TIMES:
SUNDAY, MARCH 22 12-1
MONDAY, MARCH 23 9-12

Soups Quart - \$10 or Pint - \$6
Chicken Tortilla (GF, DF)
White Chicken Chili (GF)
Traditional Red Chili (GF, DF)
Vegetarian Vegetable (V, GF, DF)
Curried Butternut Squash (V, GF, DF)
(Community Cafe's recipe!)

Rolls

Pack of 2 - \$2
Pack of 6 - \$5

GF = Gluten Free
DF = Dairy Free
V = Vegetarian

**ORDERS AND PAYMENT
DUE MARCH 15TH**

2026 SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

PICK UP DATE:

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 12-1 _____

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD 9-12 _____

	# Quart(s)	x \$10	# Pint(s)	x \$6
CHICKEN TORTILLA (GF, DF)	_____	_____	_____	_____
WHITE CHICKEN CHILI (GF)	_____	_____	_____	_____
TRADITIONAL RED CHILI (GF, DF)	_____	_____	_____	_____
VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE (V, GF, DF)	_____	_____	_____	_____
CURRIED BUTTERNUT SQUASH (V, GF, DF)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Quart Total \$ _____ Pint Total \$ _____

#

2 ROLLS - \$2 _____ x \$2 _____

6 ROLLS - \$5 _____ x \$5 _____

Roll Total \$ _____

Order Total \$ Due _____

All proceeds benefit First Presbyterian's 2026 Learning Camp Mission trip to South Dakota. Interested in learning more or volunteering? email Pastor Alison revalisonpeters@gmail.com

Checks made payable to:
First Presbyterian Church with "Dakota" in memo line

ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 15

Return to First Presbyterian Church (11 Washington Street)
or email to firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com