

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

ISAIAH 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places

and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in

ANTHEM

SPIRIT TRUTH, PURE LIGHT OF LOVE

ROBERT J. POWELL

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Spirit truth, pure light of love, guiding light of God above;
Make your beacon ours; inspire us to shine so all may know
The radiance of the Spirit's own revealing power.

Spirit wind, sweet song of love, stirring song of God above,
Make your music ours; excite us to sing so all may know
The anthem of the spirit's own resounding power.

Spirit fire, fierce breath of love, blazing breath of God above,
Make your passion ours; impel us to live so all may know
The fervor of the spirit's own resplendent power.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 5:13-20

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON

"WHAT WE CAN DO"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #314

LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS

"CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT"

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 SOLO

ANDANTE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WIHLA HUTSON

* 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 #377

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

"HOUSTON"

* 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

O QUANTA QUALIA
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION

(All members are encouraged to stay; visitors are welcome.)

* 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.....	Kathy Dowell and Linda Mellon
Nursery.....	Michael and Cathy Levitas

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **Today**.

The purposes of the meeting are:

- To hear the Annual Report of the Session
- To elect an Auditor to the Auditing Committee
- To elect a new class of Ruling Elders
- To elect a 2026 Congregational Nominating Committee
- To receive the 2026 Budget
- To elect Officers of the Corporation
- To approve the pastor's terms of Call
- To conduct any other business properly coming before the Congregation-Corporation

-By Order of the Session



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:



MONDAY, FEBRUARY (9)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (10)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (11)

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (12)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (13)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (14)

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (15)

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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Barbara Leasure (Jan. 25, 1947-June 3, 2021) by Kathy Dowell.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

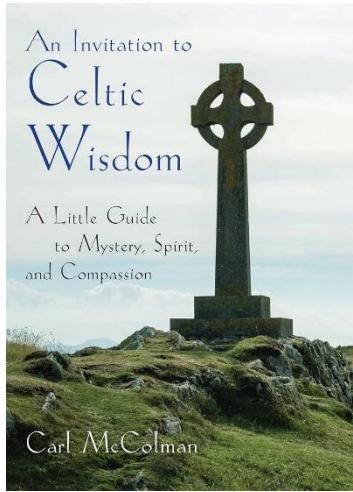
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of February 1, 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	\$ 27,438.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 19,463.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,974.00

ONLINE GIVING





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. Please RSVP to firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com by Sunday, February 8th to reserve a copy of the book. Books will be available in the church office on Sunday, February 15th.

BABY SHOWER ANNOUNCEMENT: God continues to bless FPC. Within five months, we will have two babies born into our church family. Allie Blank is having her second daughter at the end of March, and our pastor, Alison Peters, is having her first child in May. The Congregational Care Committee is excited for both babies to join our church family. The celebration is for everyone! Come and play, laugh and celebrate!

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SECOND SUNDAY SOCIALS:

Allie Blank's Baby Shower in the Fellowship Hall

Today - following worship

Food provided by Congregational Care Committee: Mexican Food

Baby Registry: Amazon Baby Registry "Allie Blank"

Gifts are optional

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

BABY SCAVENGER HUNTS: Three weeks prior to each baby shower the Congregational Care Committee invites our FPC family to join in "Baby Scavenger Hunts". Beginning on Sunday, January 25, as you walk into the side entrance and/or choir loft, look for hidden baby items. Once you find a baby item, place it in the basket located in the back of the sanctuary.

There will also be a baby bottle game in the hallway as you enter the church. Take a guess at the correct number of animal crackers for a chance to win!



Second Sunday: Baby Shower

PLEASE JOIN US FOLLOWING
WORSHIP TO HONOR

ALLIE BLANK

WE WILL CELEBRATE IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL TO ENJOY A ROBUST
MEAL, BABY BINGO, AND FELLOWSHIP,
TO SHOWER ALLIE AND BABY GIRL WITH
LOVE!

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

ALLIE'S REGISTRY MAY BE FOUND AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/BABY-REG/ALLIE-BLANK-MARCH-2026-FROSTBURG/NZMCIGQ6CBZI](https://www.amazon.com/BABY-REG/ALLIE-BLANK-MARCH-2026-FROSTBURG/NZMCIGQ6CBZI)

RULING ELDER BIOS

BILL BUTTERMARK (CLASS OF 2029)

*Edited from Bill's lengthy and interesting bio which all are welcome to read in its entirety
(It is available in the Volunteer Office).*

Bill is a native of Glen Cove, NY and was baptized and confirmed in The Reformed Church of Locust Valley, NY. His family moved to Pomfret, CT when he was a teenager. College studies led him into a BS in marketing and also where he met his first wife, Susan Stransky.

In the early 1980s he accepted a management position at Hills Department Store in Cumberland and moved his family here for a short year. They were active members at First Presbyterian Church, participating in choir (Sue) and teaching 7th and 8th grade Sunday School (Bill). Many moves for advancement in retail management resulted in family disruption, divorce, another marriage, divorce, and another career in real estate appraisal.

Over the decades, Bill has been a member of several denominations. He is presently remarried to Susan and has three adult children who live out of the area. He and Sue live in Wiley Ford with their pets, two beagles and two cats. He loves history, particularly the history that permeates this area and looks forward to serving as an elder in the ministry of FPC.

JULIE COURTNEY (CLASS OF 2028)

Julie attended West Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Williams County, Ohio from birth. She was baptized there when a high school confirmand and was a Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly in Denver, Colorado in 1973.

She became a member of First Presbyterian Church in 1979, participating in the choir, youth fellowship and Presbyterian Women's Mary-Martha Circle.

Julie has taught adult and youth Sunday School classes, gone on work camps with both youth and adults, helped with funeral receptions and Vacation Bible School. She has directed of the JoyBells since 1982.

Julie is am currently co-chair of the Faith Formation Team and on the Worship and Music Committee. She chaired the search committee for the Director of Christian Music, which brought Judie Brown back to our organ bench. She has served several times on the Nominating Committee.

Julie and her husband, Bob, have three children: Jon (Meghan) on the West Coast, Josh (Ashley) on the East Coast and Melissa in Tennessee. Their grandsons enjoy participating in church activities when they visit. Julie has a great love for our church family and appreciates the many ways we minister to each other and our community.

KATHY GETTY (CLASS OF 2029)

Kathy, her husband, Jeff, and their three daughters became a part of our church family a little over 30 years ago when they moved from Baltimore, MD to Cumberland. Kathy and Jeff had enrolled their children into Learning Tree and at the encouragement of longtime church member, Barbara Leasure, they decided to join First Presbyterian Church. Since then, they have volunteered in various capacities.

Kathy ushered, served in the nursery, participated in the Administration and Finance Committee, audited the church's financial records, helped to count the weekly collection, chaired the special organ fundraiser and co-chaired the Stewardship Campaign for the first half of her time as a member of FPC. For the past ten years, she has had the pleasure of serving as the chair of the Stewardship Campaign. Kathy had declined to join Session since she was working full-time and raising three children. But when Buck Belt approached her this year, she felt it was time to take on this expanded role and help the church she loves continue to grow.

LINDA MELLON (CLASS OF 2027)

Linda grew up in the Presbyterian Church in McConnellsburg, Pa. When her husband, Jim, and Linda had their daughter Jessica, they became members of First Presbyterian in Cumberland and Jessica was fortunate to have many children her age in the church. From Learning Tree to Youth Club, their family had an active church life.

Linda's education includes graduating from Penn State and the University of Illinois. After teaching for two years in a middle school in New York, Linda was hired as a physical education teacher at ACM. She retired in 2006, and then continued to teach fitness classes.

In 2010, Linda began raising Scottish Highland cows at her farm in PA. Jessica married Mick Burkett at the farm, with the cows in attendance. Linda has two wonderful grandchildren, James, 8 and Mary Alice, 5. They both enjoy activities at the farm. The two families only live two miles apart in LaVale, so they spend lots of time together.

Over the years, Linda has taught Sunday School, ushered and attended many classes at church. She appreciates the opportunity to be an elder at this time.

ERIC RINGLER (CLASS OF 2029)

Eric brings strong organizational and leadership experience to the Session. He is currently serving professionally as a Manager at Aetna, a CVS Health company. His journey to First Presbyterian Church began out of a need for a sense of belonging after struggling to find a faith community that fully accepted him and his partner Josh, who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. He found a spiritual home and a welcoming church family here at FPC.

Since joining, Eric has dedicated himself to the life of the church, singing in the choir, serving on the recent PNC and as the technical lead responsible for creating and running the Sunday livestreams. He has accepted the nomination for Ruling Elder as a way to glorify God and to give back to the church that embraced him, hoping to use his gifts and talents to help guide the congregation's future. In his spare time, Eric is an avid theatre enthusiast. He shares his life with his partner, Josh, and their "fur kid," Lennox.

DEBORAH ANN ROPER (CLASS OF 2029)

Debbie was baptized into the Christian faith at age nine and has served as choir member, Vacation Bible School teacher, usher, and event planner. Debbie has been married to Gary Roper for fourteen years and together they have five children and nine grandchildren. They moved to Cumberland on October 31, 2022. They describe Cumberland as "Little Italy".

Debbie holds a master's degree in nursing administration and has fifty years of nursing experience. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in developing stroke centers across the United States.

Debbie describes one of her greatest achievements as owning a Bed and Breakfast in McKinney, Texas. She enjoyed helping to make memories and spoiling each of her guests, whether it was an event such as a wedding, an anniversary, a tea party, or making birthday cakes.

Serving others is Debbie's motivation. Debbie and Gary joined FPC in January of 2025 and immediately began volunteering for the Community Café. Debbie welcomes the opportunity to serve the congregation of FPC.