

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



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

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

FRIEDRICH WILHELM ZACHOW (1663-1712)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

FOR YOU, MY GOD, I WAIT  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"SPRINGTIME"

For you, my God, I wait with hope born of the Word.  
Like sleepless ones who long to dream I wait and call my Lord.

For even from the deep I know you hear my cries.  
Like sleepless ones who dream at last, I ease my weary eyes.

And once my soul is still, in you I find my rest,  
at peace as though a child upon a gentle mother's breast.

O God, you are my hope; I know that you forgive.  
Your love redeems me from the depths so I may rise and live.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

There are voices that tremble  
**Some voices cannot speak.**  
There are cries that rise  
**Some without words.**  
God hears what the world silences.  
**Let us worship the One who restores speech and brings us hope.**

Let us pray -

Compassionate God, you see those who suffer without a voice. You hear the cries of those restrained by fear, trauma, or injustice. Make us attentive to hidden suffering. Teach us to speak where silence harms and to act where words are not enough. Through Christ, the healer of the broken. Amen.

\* HYMN #53

O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE

"NOEL"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have ignored the silenced and turned away from difficult pain. We have been impatient with suffering and slow to advocate for the vulnerable. Forgive our indifference. Make us a community that listens deeply, speaks faithfully, and seeks healing for all. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

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

ISAIAH 35

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.]]<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## ANTHEM

DEEP RIVER

SPIRITUAL, ARR. ROY WINGWALD

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.

Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campgroun'.

Oh, don't you want to go to the gospel feast,

That promised land where all is peace?

Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campgroun'.

## SECOND READING

MARK 9:14-29

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. <sup>16</sup> He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" <sup>17</sup> Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, <sup>18</sup> and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid, and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so." <sup>19</sup> He answered them, "You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me."

<sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us!" <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes."

<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" <sup>26</sup> After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. <sup>28</sup> When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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

TRIO  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

LAMBERT CHAUMONT (1635-1712)

\* 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 #39

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

“FAITHFULNESS”

\* 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 WONDROUS SIGHT, O VISION FAIR  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

“DEO GRATIAS”

Reflective Text:  
The law and prophets there have place, two chosen witnesses of grace;  
the Father’s voice from out the cloud proclaims his only Son aloud.

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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.....David Stickler
- Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
- Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
- Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
- Ushers.....Linda Mellon and Sharon Squires
- Nursery.....Renee Kiddy and Mitch Peters



**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 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 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

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of March 15, 2026</b>
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	\$ 57,523.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 42,819.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 14,703.00

## ONLINE GIVING





**MONDAY, MARCH (23)**

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH (24)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH (25)**

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH (26)**

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

**FRIDAY, MARCH (27)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
9:30 AM ORGAN TUNING

**SATURDAY, MARCH (28)**

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

**SUNDAY, MARCH (29)**

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45 AM PALM PROCESSIONAL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:  
PALM SUNDAY  
12:00 PM PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Neil Smith, by Nancy and Royce Hodges.

**THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!** We are hoping to offer more faith-forming and faith-affirming activities in 2026 for all ages and we would love to hear your ideas. No suggestion is too big or too small. We have placed a suggestion box in the back of the sanctuary. Please use the box to share your thoughts and ideas with us throughout the year. We are looking forward to planning meaningful and fun events based on your input.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Next Sunday, March 29th, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program are all supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give from your abundance in this time of rebirth.

## Jared Boxes

The Mission and Faith Formation Committees are teaming up to provide a wonderful service opportunity during this Lenten season. Beginning March 1, 2026 we will be adopting **Jared Boxes**. Jared Boxes include small toys and activities that will be given to kids in the hospital to keep them occupied while waiting for procedures to start, at a visit to the Emergency Department, etc. Our local branch of UPMC participates, so our effort will stay within our local community!

At our Palm Sunday Celebration, we will have our young disciples decorate the boxes. We are asking the congregation to assist in this service project by filling a box. Much like previous mission projects, (Angel tree, Salvation Army stockings, etc.) you may choose a specific gender and age group and are responsible for filling that box. This is also a great opportunity to partner with another church member to create a box together. (Purchasing items to fill a box generally costs \$10 - \$15.)

In the main entrance hallway, you will find clear boxes labeled with a designated age and gender of a child. Take a box and suggested items flyer with you, fill it with items from the suggested list, or be creative and add your own ideas! Add a short note on the included card and return the box any time before Palm Sunday to the church office or Kelsey Gallo. Examples of filled boxes are also available

## EASTER FLOWERS 2026

If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate your selection below. Please also choose if you wish to take your flowers home after the service, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned by today so that your dedication may be listed in the Easter bulletin.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Lilies	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
Chrysanthemums	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Total</b>	_____	\$ _____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate the flowers \_\_\_\_\_

## EASTER MUSIC 2026

You may also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on Easter and throughout the year.

*Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.*

Special Music Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than today so that your dedication may be listed in the Easter bulletin.**

**Join FPC for our Holy Week Services!**

\*MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

SUNRISE SERVICE at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church at 11:00 AM

**CHURCHES ON THE HILL LENTEN WORSHIP**

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We will join this Lent with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul’s Lutheran for our traditional combined worship services:

**Palm Sunday (March 29th) Ecumenical Palm Blessing & Procession:** Those who wish to participate, walk up the sidewalk with Pastor Alison to the steps of the Washington Street Library where we meet at 10:45 AM with members of the other two churches for a blessing of the palms.

**Good Friday (April 3rd) Walking Stations of the Cross at 12:00 PM** The service begins at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul, moves to St. Paul's Lutheran Church then the Emmanuel Episcopal Church and ends at First Presbyterian Church. The service attendees walk together and pause to reflect with scripture and hymns on the series of events that occurred on Good Friday.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

This Spring we will be working to update our church directory! Please fill out the form below with your up to date information, written as you wish for it to be listed in the directory, and place it in the offering plate. Any portion left empty will be left blank.

If requesting an updated photo, they may be taken following any worship service through 4/19. If you would like to submit a photo to be used, please send them to [firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com)

All printed directories will be available once all updates are complete.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (primary): \_\_\_\_\_

cell: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE MY PHOTO

I WOULD LIKE A PRINTED COPY OF THE DIRECTORY WHEN COMPLETE

A Monumental Revival Returns – CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2026 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 4:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

This spring, the Cumberland Choral Society proudly brings back one of the most electrifying works ever to grace our stage:

**Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah***—a dramatic, thunderous, and deeply human masterpiece was last performed here in 2016, to great acclaim. Ten years later, this powerful oratorio returns in a revival performance designed to captivate both longtime fans and first-time listeners.

This year's performance features an exceptional lineup of **local** soloists along with **guest artists from New York, Eastern Maryland, & Virginia**, thus creating a vibrant blend of regional and national talent.

We are honored to present an edition of this performance long associated with the **legendary** conductor and arranger **Robert Shaw**, which has been condensed to a 90 minute concert and is used with the full permission of the *Robert Shaw Estate*. Although not condensed by Robert Shaw himself but by our **Artistic Director, Judith Brown**, this version preserves the sweeping drama, emotional clarity, and musical brilliance that has made *Elijah* a cornerstone of the choral repertoire.

Mendelssohn's score calls for a baritone to be Prophet Elijah. This role requires an operatic range of emotional expressions which are prayerful, weary and defiant. A full orchestra sound, three more principal soloists along with a strong and full chorus complete the work.

Expect soaring choruses, gripping solos and a story of courage and conviction brought to life with renewed energy. This is "Elijah" reimagined for today's audience – intense, inspiring and unforgettable



# Palm Sunday Celebration

The Faith Formation team invites you to attend  
a pancake breakfast to kick off Holy Week!  
Pancakes, yogurt and a variety of toppings will be served.

Sunday, March 29th, 2026

Fellowship Hall, following worship

During our celebration, we will be assembling  
Jared Boxes for the UPMC Children's  
Specialty Care Center!

Following lunch, an Easter Egg hunt  
will be held for our young disciples.



**BABY SCAVENGER HUNTS:** Three weeks prior to the next baby shower the Congregational Care Committee invites our FPC family to join in “Baby Scavenger Hunts”. Beginning on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, look for hidden baby items as you walk into the side entrance and/or choir loft. 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 located in the hallway as you enter the church. Take a guess at the correct number of animal crackers for a chance to win!

JOIN US FOR A

**BABY SHOWER**

IN HONOR OF  
**PASTOR ALISON PETERS**

SUNDAY  
APRIL **12** 2026

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER  
WORSHIP FOR GAMES, DELICIOUS  
BBQ AND FELLOWSHIP TO HONOR  
BABY PETERS!  
GIFTS ARE OPTIONAL!

ALISON'S REGISTRY CAN  
BE FOUND HERE:

