

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: PALM SUNDAY  
MARCH 29, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA*  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

HANS-ARNOLD METZGER

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA*  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"ELLACOMBE"

Hosanna, loud Hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

What will we lay down as Christ passes by?

**We have no cloaks today.**

Instead, let us lay down something else -

**our hearts, our hopes, and our lives.**

As the crowds in Jerusalem cried out long ago, we echo,

**Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Let us pray -

God of all the ages, make us real or make us nothing. As we sing "Hosanna!", bring us to the foot of the cross. As we wave palms, show us your tomb. On this day of praise and passion, help us to hold the tension between life and death and to learn the mystery that you are in both. Teach us to turn our faces toward you and help us to bear witness, that we might testify always to your faithfulness. Amen.

\* HYMN #196

*ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR*

"VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN"

(Just like that first Palm Sunday, our children and families will lead a procession around the sanctuary throughout the hymn.

All are invited to join in if they wish and be a part of the celebration!)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of street parades and hosannas, we know that you are counting on us to speak out against oppression, to speak up for love, and to speak hope to fear, but so often we are silent. We worry that we'll say the wrong thing, so we don't say anything at all. We worry that we'll offend, so we keep our convictions to ourselves. We worry that we'll speak up and won't be heard, so we stay silent. And meanwhile, the parade marches on. Unravel our fears. Spark conviction in us. Give us the courage to yell "Hosanna!" 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 118:1-2, 19-29

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."  
<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.  
<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.  
<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
<sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!  
<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.  
<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.  
<sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

ANTHEM

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

ARR. ROBERTA BITGOOD

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!

SECOND READING

LUKE 19:28-40

- <sup>28</sup> After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.  
<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,  
<sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

SERMON

"CRY OUT ANYWAY"

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #197

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

"ELLACOMBE"

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

SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

The Sanctuary Choir

Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.  
He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities,  
The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. (Isaiah 53:4,5)

\* 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 #215

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

“WONDROUS LOVE”

\* 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

WONDROUS LOVE  
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.....Carl Belt  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Deb Hendrickson and David Stickler  
Nursery.....Jane Belt and Cathy Levitas

**PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for our 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. During the celebration, we will be assembling **Jared Boxes** for UPMC Children’s Specialty Care Center! We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for our young disciples following brunch.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Today, 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.



**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>	as of March 22, 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	\$ 64,024.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 46,712.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 17,311.00

## ONLINE GIVING





**MONDAY, MARCH (30)**

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 5:00PM SANCTUARY CHOIR: SOLOIST
- 5:00 PM WOMEN'S BOOD STUDY
- 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

**TUESDAY, MARCH (31)**

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL (1)**

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 12:15 PM STAFF MEETING
- 5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
- 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
- 7:00 PM NA MEETING

**THURSDAY, APRIL (2)**

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- 7:00 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

**FRIDAY, APRIL (3)**

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 12:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY:  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**SATURDAY, APRIL (4)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL (5)**

- 7:00 AM SUNRISE SERVICE
- 9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 AM SERVICE OR WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION  
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**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.

**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**

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

**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.

**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 today, 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:



# 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, 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