

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 8, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

TOCCATA  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

GIROLAMO FRESCOBALDI (1583-1643)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

YOU ARE MY REFUGE, FAITHFUL GOD  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR  
You are my refuge, faithful God;  
You shelter me from shame.  
I put my spirit in your hands  
and call upon your name.  
  
And yet I trust in you, O God;  
Your covenant still stands.  
Redeem me, in your faithful love:  
My life is in your hands.

"MORNING SONG"

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

While we kept silent, our bones grew weary.  
**When we spoke, God drew near.**  
Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.  
**Blessed are those who dare to tell the truth.**  
Let us worship the God  
**who restores us through mercy.**

Let us pray -

Merciful God, you do not desire our silence but our honesty. You do not delight in hidden shame but in restored joy. Give us courage to speak what we have concealed, to name what has burdened us, and to trust that your forgiveness is stronger than our fear. Through Christ, who calls us into truth. Amen.

\* HYMN #442

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

"WOODWORTH"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we confess that we have kept quiet when confession would bring freedom. We have hidden our sin, defended our pride, and allowed silence to isolate us from you and one another. Forgive us for wasting away in secrecy. Create in us clean hearts, restore to us the joy of your salvation, and teach us to live in the light of your mercy. 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

PROVERBS 28:12-16

- <sup>12</sup> When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory, but when the wicked prevail, people go into hiding.  
<sup>13</sup> No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.  
<sup>14</sup> Happy is the one who is never without fear, but one who is hard-hearted will fall into calamity.  
<sup>15</sup> Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.  
<sup>16</sup> A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but one who hates unjust gain will enjoy a long life.

## DUET

PIE JESU

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (1948 -)

KATELYN HENDRIX, SOPRANO; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Merciful Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world  
Grant them rest.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world  
Grant them rest.

## SECOND READING

PSALM 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
<sup>2</sup> Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
<sup>3</sup> While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.  
<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*  
<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.  
<sup>10</sup> Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.  
<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## SERMON

"THE COST OF KEEPING QUIET"

REV. ALISON PETERS

## \* HYMN #469

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING (SUNG 3X.)

"CHILDREN PRAYING"

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

THE LIGHT WE CAST  
THE JOYBELLS

JESSICA CURRY, ARR. JOSH COURTNEY

## \* 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 #475

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

“NETTLETON”

\* 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

LOVE UNKNOWN  
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.....	Nadene Stroup
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; The Joybells; Katelyn Hendrix, Soprano; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Bill Buttermark and Kathy Dowell
Nursery.....	Rick and Robin Bissell

### SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL -CHILI COOK-OFF: Join us after worship today for our Second Sunday Social Chili Cook-Off!



**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 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](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 1, 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	\$ 49,972.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 35,034.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 14,937.00

## ONLINE GIVING



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Sandra Burton and for her March 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, with lots of love from her children ~ Beth & her husband Joel, and Mike & his wife Michelle; her granddaughter, Laura Beth & her husband Phil, and her great grandsons, Ezekiel, Thaddeus (Teddy), and Samuel (Sammy).



**MONDAY, MARCH (9)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
10:00 AM NEW ELDER OFFICE TRAINING  
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING  
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

**TUESDAY, MARCH (10)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
7:30 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH (11)**

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH (12)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:00 PM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

**FRIDAY, MARCH (13)**

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

**SATURDAY, MARCH (14)**

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

**SUNDAY, MARCH (15)**

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
12:00 PM YOUNG DISCIPLES TRAINING

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - LENT:** The Adult Sunday School class is 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." Please join us! Let Brittany or Ann Kellermeyer ([akellermeyer@me.com](mailto:akellermeyer@me.com)) know or just show up. Books are in Brittany's office.

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

Our young disciples will learn how to assist with:

- the Chiming of the hour
- Ushering
- Lighting the candles (Acolyte)
- Childcare (as an assistant)
- Serving Communion
- After worship clean up
- Tech Support

**THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!** We are hoping to offer more faith-forming and faith-affirming activities for all ages in 2026 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:** On Sunday, April 5th, 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.

# 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**



## 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 Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> so that your dedication may be listed in the Easter bulletin.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Lilies	\$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 next Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> so that your dedication may be listed in the Easter bulletin.**

## 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. UPMC Western Maryland accepts Jared Boxes, 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 to Kelsey Gallo. Examples of filled boxes are also available!



# 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.



## 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 29<sup>th</sup>)- Ecumenical Palm Blessing & Procession** beginning on the Washington Street Library steps at 10:45 AM.

**Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12: 00 PM** (Service will begin at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul and end at First Presbyterian Church.)



**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 who is Prophet Elijah requiring 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