

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
APRIL 12, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN (CHRIST IS ARISEN)
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHANN KASPAR, FERDINAND FISCHER

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING PSALM

PSALM 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
- ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- ⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS ARISEN
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Alleluia! Christ is arisen

“SANTO DOMINGO”

Bright is the dawning of the Lord's day.
Run faithful women, to the graveside.
Marvel, the stone is rolled away!
Hear from the angel, “He is risen.”
Christ goes before you all the way.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Grant, O God, Your protection; And in protection, strength;
And in strength, understanding;
And in understanding, knowledge;
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;
And in knowledge of justice, the love of it;
And in that love, the love of all existences;
And in the love of all existences, the love of God.
God and all goodness.

Let us pray -

Holy One, we remember the commandments of the old covenant, bestowed through Moses: Having no gods before you, not making graven images, not taking the Lord's name in vain, remembering the Sabbath day, honoring our parents, not murdering or committing adultery, not stealing or bearing false witness, and not coveting our neighbor's life. Lord, we ask You to incline our hearts to keep these laws. Amen.

* HYMN #366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

“HYFRYDOL”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have sinned against you, voluntarily and involuntarily, in thought, word, and deed; known and unknown; by day and by night. Have benevolence and forgive us all, O God, after Your great goodness, according to the multitude of Your mercies, do away with our offences, and cleanse us from our transgressions, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS (Verse 3)

"SUO GAN"

Christ has risen and for ever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR ALEXANDRIA RUTH BOOR

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

BAPTISM

THE LITANY OF WELCOME

Pastor: This child is now baptized into Jesus Christ. We welcome her as a member of the one holy catholic and Apostolic Church.

Elder to the Congregation: Remembering our own baptism, do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, promise to love, nurture and support Alexandria and her family as together we grow in Christ. **If so answer, "we do."**

Pastor: Then let us welcome her with gifts and with song!

BAPTISM HYMN #188

JESUS LOVES ME

"JESUS LOVES ME"

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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 19

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

ANTHEM

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! GIVE THANKS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to His name.

"ALLELUIA No. 1"

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.

SECOND READING

PSALM 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

SERMON

"FOR CELTIC HEARTS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #802

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

"ST. COLUMBA"

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

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISETH
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"NOEL NOUVELET"

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
love is come again like wheat arising green.

* DOXOLOGY #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (Verse 1.)

"BEACH SPRING"

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

* 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 #450 BE THOU MY VISION “SLANE”

* 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 HYMN TO JOY
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.....Sharon Squires
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Bill Buttermark and Linda Mellon
Nursery.....Jeff and Kathy Getty



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 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: 301-777-3700/firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com



MONDAY, APRIL (13)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
- 6:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, APRIL (14)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 12:15 PM STAFF MEETING
- 7:30 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (15)

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

THURSDAY, APRIL (16)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL (17)

- 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- 6:00 PM ROBERT GAMBLE VISIT (DINNER AT THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ)

SATURDAY, APRIL (18)

CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

SUNDAY, APRIL (19)

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: | as of April 5, 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 | \$ 71,392.00 |
| Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date | \$ 54,497.00 |
| Over/(Under) | \$ 16,894.00 |

ONLINE GIVING



RSVP FOR DINNER WITH ROBERT GAMBLE: Join Robert Gamble and Oli, his wife, for dinner at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 17th at the Community Café (127 N. Centre Street) to learn more about *This Child Here* and how they are serving the children on Ukraine. Please RSVP to Brittany in the church office by April 15th.

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.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY DONATION BOX: The Mission Committee has decided that it is time to take a break from requesting donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry Box. On our recent trip to the pantry to drop off donations we found it was well supplied with a variety of food and personal items. The Mission Committee will continue to support the pantry financially throughout the year and will bring the box back at a later date. We thank everyone who has donated throughout the years, and look forward to a continued relationship with the vital local agency.

HOUSING AND TOUR GUIDES NEEDED FOR CZECH VISITORS

The Mission Committee is in need of volunteers to assist with taking care of our Czech partners who will be visiting Cumberland following the Czech Mission Network Conference from May 3rd-7th in Pittsburgh.

We are in need of housing for our three female guests on May 7th-9th and on May 12th. We also need individuals or groups to show our friends around the area. Visiting museums, hiking, touring Allegany and Garrett County are of interest to them.

Please help by signing the form below or contacting either Linda Smith or Brenda Luger. Thank you in advance for your support and assistance.

NAME: _____ PHONE/TEXT: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOUSING (ALL THREE): MAY 7th-9th and May 12th _____

(If you can house only one or two, or only for May 7th-9th or only for May 12th we can adapt)

ACTIVITIES: _____

(suggestions and/or volunteering to participate)



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

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



Save the Date!

Every Sunday - Adult Sunday School
Class led by Ann Kellermeyer in the Dakota Room
10:00 am

4/12 - Second Sunday
Pastor Alison's Baby Shower
Following worship in the fellowship hall

4/19
Family Sunday School & Chiming of the Hour -
10:00 am
Class for young disciples & their grown ups.
Chiming of the hour by our young disciples.

5/1 Mr. Toad's Prayerful Painting
5:00 - 6:30 pm
Fellowship & pottery painting at Mr. Toad's

5/10 - Family Sunday School & Chiming of the
Hour -
10:00 am
Class for young disciples & their grown ups.
Chiming of the hour by our young disciples.

5/24 Pentecost Sunday - A Birthday Celebration
Following Worship in the Gathering Place

