

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: EARTH DAY
APRIL 19, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

EASTER MEDLEY WILLIAM DOANE, ROBERT LOWRY, ELISHA HOFFMAN AND PHILIP BLISS
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO ARR. BY: MARCIA WELLS

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

As we gather today, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples.
Shawandasee Tula and Massawomek.

We remember that we share this land with other parts of God's good creation: plants, birds, and animals.
May we be good neighbors.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

DAY OF ARISING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"RAABE"

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
Unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day,
And bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading
Blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
Yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting
our invitation; Stay, do not part.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,
Bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning
That all creation with you may rise.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

We have come to stand on holy ground!

We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming.

We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit, like the flowing waters that surround us.

We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and experience the God of Creation in this sacred space.

Let us pray -

Risen and Living God, in your endless love and grace, you have given us all that we need. Open our weary eyes to moments when need meets resource and longing is satisfied in giving. Send us where you need us and fill us with your purpose, so that all people may know the wonder and joy of your redeeming presence, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that for many of us, the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place—to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. 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

BLESSING OF THE PLARN MATS

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.

Peace be with you-Persian language
عليکم (Sah-lahm Ah-lay-koom)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 24

- ¹ The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,
- ² for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.
- ³ Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- ⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully.
- ⁵ They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation.
- ⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*
- ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!
- ⁸ Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.
- ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!
- ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. *Selah*

ANTHEM

BECAUSE YOU LIVE, O CHRIST

“VRUECHTEN”

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;
The darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled way and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
Has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!

Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;

Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

SECOND READING

GENESIS 2:4-17

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold,¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

SERMON

“A PLACE OF BEAUTY”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #20

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

“ROYAL OAK”

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

AT THE RIVER

“HANSON PLACE”, ROBERT LOWRY, ARR. MICHAEL BURKHARDT

THE JOYBELLS

* 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 up 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 #19

GOD OF GREAT AND GOD OF SMALL

“GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL”

* 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

THINE IS THE GLORY (FROM “JUDAS MACCABEUS”)

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

* 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
Director of the JoyBells.....	Julie Courtney
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir and the JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Jeff and Kathy Getty
Nursery.....	Linda Mellon and Mitch Peters

PENTECOST is May 24th. In preparation, we will be learning "*Peace be with you*" in a number of languages.

American Sign Language

Greek- εἰρήνη μαζί σου (I-ray-knee mah-zee soo)

Persian- سلام عليكم (Sah-lahm Ah-lay-koom)



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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of April 12, 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	\$ 73,027.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 58,390.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 14,636.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, APRIL (20)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, APRIL (21)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM PIANO TUNING
6:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (22)

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

THURSDAY, APRIL (23)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
2:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, APRIL (24)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

SATURDAY, APRIL (25)

SUNDAY, APRIL (26)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
4:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

PRAYERFUL PAINTING: Join us on Friday, May 1st from 5:00-6:30 PM for an evening of Prayerful Painting at Mr. Toad's Pottery! We will have a creative fellowship opportunity of pottery painting. Each attendee may purchase and paint pottery of their own choosing. An RSVP is required to the church office by Monday, April 27th. We hope you will join us for a fun evening of fellowship!

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY: The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to attend the Spring Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.



FELLOWSHIP DINNER OPPORTUNITY: Years ago, dinners were held at congregation members' homes, as part of a yearly Stewardship campaign. We are looking to bring those dinners back, but as simple fellowship opportunities, to offer our congregation a time of food, prayer and meaningful time together. Host families will determine the number of attendees, provide the entree for the meal, and choose a desired date between May and October. **If you are interested in hosting a fellowship dinner, please get in touch with Kelsey Gallo, at 240-727-7735, or firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com.**

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 hosting our Czech partners who will be visiting Cumberland following the Czech Mission Network Conference in Pittsburgh, which will be from May 3rd-7th.

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, and 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)

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

