

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
MAY 3, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

THE CALL
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LET US BUILD A HOUSE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“TWIN OAKS”

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome in this place.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

(PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16)

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God
My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let us pray...

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #4

HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE YOUR NAME

“GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #551

LORD HAVE MERCY

"LAND OF REST"

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy upon us (*Repeat*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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- Coptic language

Εἰρήνη πᾶσι (ee-REE-nee PAH-see)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

HEBREWS 1: 1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." This is the word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

COME MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life; such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light my Feast, my Strength; such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my Love, my Heart; such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

SECOND READING

JOHN 14:1-14

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

SERMON

"KNOWING JESUS, KNOWING GOD"

JOSH GILHART

* HYMN #517

HERE, O OUR LORD, WE SEE YOU

"MORECAMBE"

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 SOLO

ANDANTE IN A MAJOR

WILHA HUTSON

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* DOXOLOGY #607

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSING FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. *(The Celebrant Continues...)*

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *(The Celebrant Continues...)*

...Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again. *(The Celebrant Continues...)*

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

SOLO DURING COMMUNION

THIS TABLE IS YOURS MUSIC & LYRICS: DAVID GUNGOR, PAUL ZACH, & MATT MAHER
ERIC RINGLER, VOCALS; ZACH DODGE, GUITAR

Am I a stranger among my own?
Is this a place where I can be known?
What do I have to hide just to belong?
Is this my table? Am I alone?

I see you stranger among your own
No reputation, without a home
Touching the leper, throwing no stones
Come to my table; you're not alone

Chorus: This table is yours; this table is mine
Christ breaks the bread and pours the wine
So we lift the cup and we join the feast
God's holy mystery

Jesus he cried out while on the tree
"O God forgive them, they cannot see"
His love forsaken, his mercy meek
Yet at this table, we know Christ's peace

Mary in mourning went to the tomb
Her heart was broken; the stone was too
She saw an angel claimed Jesus raised
The body's gone now, don't be afraid

Hallelujah! hallelujah!
With open hands and broken hearts
Lord, we lift our prayers and we join the feast
God's holy mystery

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #634

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

"TO GOD BE THE GLORY"

* 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

AURELIA
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

Guest Speaker.....	Josh Gilhart
Liturgist.....	Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; Zach Dodge, Guitar; Eric Ringler, Vocals
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Carl Belt and Cindy Corley
Nursery.....	Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy

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)

Latin- Pax tecum (pax TAY coom)

Pax vobiscum (pax voh BEE scoom)

Coptic- Εἰρήνη πᾶσι (ee-REE-nee PAH-see)



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.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Kirke and Theresa Davis, by Gail Plitnik. The flowers are also in memory of Alan Cuppett, by Aaron Hendrickson.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of April 26, 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	\$ 75,770.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 66,175.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,594.00

ONLINE GIVING



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.

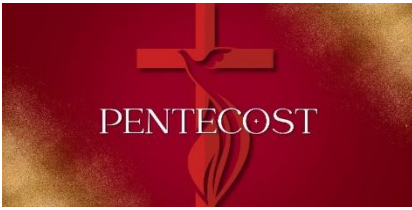
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

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, MAY (4)**
 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 12:15 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 6:00 PM WEST SIDE HUNTERS CHEER FITTINGS
- TUESDAY, MAY (5)**
 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:00 PM MISSION MEETING
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING
- WEDNESDAY, MAY (6)**
 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 L.T. MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON
 12:15 PM STAFF MEETING
 5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
 7:00 PM NA MEETING
- THURSDAY, MAY (7)**
 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 L.T. MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON
- FRIDAY, MAY (8)**
 7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
- SATURDAY, MAY (9)**
 9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING
- SUNDAY, MAY (10)**
 9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
 11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
 MOTHER'S DAY
 12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL



PENTECOST SUNDAY: On Sunday, May 24th, we will celebrate Pentecost. You are invited to wear red, orange or yellow to celebrate the birthday of the church.

PENTECOST OFFERING: On Pentecost Sunday our congregation will have the opportunity to donate to the Pentecost Offering.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$16 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more – to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

40% of the Pentecost Offering will be used to support a local youth-based program.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. This will train and equip volunteers to engage in mission in the U.S. and around the world. It will reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend. It will provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.

25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18. This project offers a path and a plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.

10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative, to better the lives of children by working to ensure equitable, accessible, quality public education so that all children may grow into the fullness of life.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Special Offering.

**Our Summer Worship Schedule will begin
on Sunday, June 7th!**

**Worship will be at 10:00 AM
during the summer months.**



— HELP BUILD OUR — **CHURCH'S DIGITAL HOME**

Join the Website Ministry Team!

Do you have a passion for creativity, storytelling, or technology?

We need volunteers to enhance and sustain our church website!

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- ✓ Our website is **the first impression** of our church.
- ✓ It tells the world who we are

How Can You Help?



Art & Design

Design graphics and layout for webpages and special activities



Photography

Take & edit photos for to be uploaded



Tech & Maintenance

Update & maintain the site



Content Writing

Write & organize content

OUR GOAL: A Sustainable & Team-Driven Website!

Contact Josh Gilhart or email the church office for more information.

"WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART."

COLOSSIANS 3:23