

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
MAY 10, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS ("ELIJAH")
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1810-1847)

Reflective Text:

If, with all your hearts, ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith our God.
Oh! That I knew where I might find Him,
that I might even come before His presence!

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

SHALOM ALEICHEM (PEACE BE WITH YOU)
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Shalom aleichem,
malechei Elyon
mimelech malechei hamlachim
hakadosh Baruch hu.

I. GOLDFARB

Peace be with you ministering angels,
Messengers of the Most High.
Messengers of the King of Kings
The Holy One, Blessed be He.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness; we behold God's glory.

God has gone up with a shout, with the sound of a trumpet.

Give thanks to God, O faithful ones.

Sing praises to God; sing praises. Sing praises to our King; sing praises!

Let us pray -

Lord God of power and might, we are breathless when we behold your glory. Shape our words into praise and our actions to be a reflection of your goodness. Keep our feet on the earth and your good news on our lips, that we may bring truth where there is deception, hope where there is fear, liberation where there is oppression, companionship to those who are abandoned, and abundance to those who hunger and thirst, in the name of Jesus the Christ, whom alone we worship and serve. Amen.

* HYMN #624

I GREET THEE, WHO MY SURE REDEEMER ART

"TOULON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed to be an obedient church: we have not done your will; we have broken your law. Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all

your mind” and “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” We have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS (Verse 3)

“SUO GAN”

Christ has risen and forever 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

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- Hebrew language

שלום עליכם

(sha-LOHM ah-LAY-khem)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 66:8-20

- ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,
⁹ who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.
¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,
¹⁴ those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*
¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer.
²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

ANTHEM

HE, WATCHING OVER ISRAEL (“ELIJAH”)

MENDELSSOHN

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish;
He will quicken Thee.

SECOND READING

JOHN 14:15-21

- ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

SERMON

“LOVE POWER”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #282

COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE

“DOWN AMPNEY”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

GREETINGS FROM OUR PARTNER CHURCH - VSETÍN, CZECH REPUBLIC

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange or blue prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY DUET

LITTLE ONES

PATRICK HAWES (1958 -)

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

You are His little ones, never despair;
He holds you gently in His tender care;
He is the little one laid in the straw;
He is the baby poor shepherds adore.

He is our great God who came to His own,
The maker of all things in a manger enthroned.
Not dressed in velvet but wrapped in rags
Sharing the needs of the lost and the sad.

You are His little ones, never despair;
He holds you gently in His tender care;
Each little trouble that worries your mind
Will in His love's wisdom the true answer find.

* 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 #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

"ST. DENIO"

* 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.

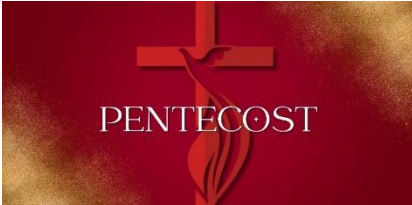
POSTLUDE

MIT FREUDEN ZART
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.....Sharon Kazary
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano; Katelyn Hendrix, Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Jeff and Kathy Getty
Nursery.....Kathy Dowell and Linda Mellon



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.

In preparation of Pentecost, 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 علیکم (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)

Hebrew-

שלום עליכם (sha-LOHM ah-LAY-khem)



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 loving memory of their mothers, Audrey Mills and Jane Adams. They are missed each and every day, by Phil and Kim Mills. The flowers are also in loving memory of their mother, Carlotta Shaffer, by Christine Shaffer, and Gary and Brenda McKenzie. The flowers are also in memory of her mother, Mary Ann Smith, on what would have been her 101st birthday, by Linda Smith.

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 May 3, 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	\$ 82,295.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 70,068.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,226.00

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.**



MONDAY, MAY (11)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEETING
4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY (12)

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY (13)

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

THURSDAY, MAY (14)

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

FRIDAY, MAY (15)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MAY (16)

SUNDAY, MAY (17)

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

THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! In 2026 (and beyond), we are hoping to offer more faith-forming and faith-affirming activities 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.

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!

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

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

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