

11 WASHINGTON STREET

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
MAY 17, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN G MAJOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

HENRY HERON (18TH CENTURY)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

A FESTIVE INTRADA
THE JOYBELLS

CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of praise be heard!
God has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.
We went through fire and through water, yet God has brought us out to a spacious place.
Come and hear what God has done for us, all who fear God.
Surely God has listened to us and heard our prayers!
Blessed be God, who is steadfast love.

Let us pray -

Faithful God, through all the ages, you have kept your promises. You have freed us from the powers of scarcity and death for abundant new life. Stay with us as we wait and watch for your Spirit with excitement and hope, that we may experience your love and share it with our lives, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #321

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

"AURELIA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of welcome, from generation to generation you have heard your children humbly seeking forgiveness, and you have embraced us all. Forgive us when frustration and overwhelming situations keep us from following you and when we fail to seek forgiveness from our coworkers, neighbors, and enemies. Hear the concerns of our hearts, examine our motives, and forgive our faults. Help us to welcome all persons as you have welcomed us, through your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who died and rose again that we might learn your love. 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

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- Arabic language

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ (*as-sah-laa-moo a-LAY-koom*)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 47

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
² For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
³ He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.
⁴ He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
⁷ For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
⁸ God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

ANTHEM

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME
THE JOYBELLS

BILL INGRAM

SECOND READING

LUKE 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON

"FORTIFIED"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #263

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME!

"CORONATION"

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

IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

THOMAS TALLIS (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father,
And He shall give you another comforter;
That He may abide with you forever,
E'en the Spirit of truth.

* 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 #539 WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY "WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY"

* 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!

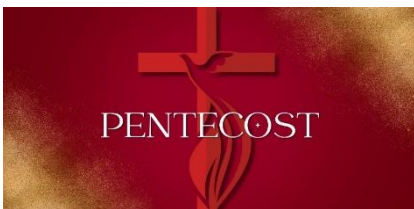
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE THE TREES OF THE FIELD
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.....David Stickler
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.....Michael and Cathy Levitas
Nursery.....Cindy Corley and Sharon Squires



PENTECOST SUNDAY: Next 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)

Arabic-

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ (as-sah-laa-moo a-LAY-koom)

GUEST MUSICIANS NEEDED: The Worship and Music Committee are looking for volunteers to cover the anthem and/or offertory while Judie is out. If you are interested, please reach out to Eric Ringler at eric.ringler@outlook.com.



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.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of May 10, 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	\$ 85,250.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 73,960.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 11,289.00

ONLINE GIVING



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

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! 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: Next 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.

MISSION SUNDAY: Please join us on Sunday, May 31st as we welcome Andy and Ellen Collins! The Collin's will present the sermon during the service. After worship, you are invited to meet with them in the Gathering Place. They will share news and slides about their recent visit to Nepal, and an update on Karuna, the young medical student our church supported generously during Reason for the Season.

Andy and Ellen served 11 years in Nepal, then moved to Thailand in 2006 where they served in partnership with two Thai ministries: the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) and McGilvary College of Divinity.

After a home assignment in 2021, they transitioned to a “hybrid” mission model, splitting their time between the Thai seminary and Welcome House, a refugee ministry in their home state of North Carolina.

Andy and Ellen grew up as children of long-term missionaries (the Harding's in Nepal and the Collin's in Thailand), and raised their own two sons on the mission field in both countries. Our church has supported two of Dr. Harding's missions for years: Shanta Nepal, and Welfare Assoc. for Children in Tikapur (WACT).



	<u>MONDAY, MAY (18)</u>
7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	<u>TUESDAY, MAY (19)</u>
7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	<u>WEDNESDAY, MAY (20)</u>
7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM	NA MEETING
	<u>THURSDAY, MAY (21)</u>
7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	<u>FRIDAY, MAY (22)</u>
7:30 AM	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
	LEARNING TREE PICNIC
	<u>SATURDAY, MAY (23)</u>
	<u>SUNDAY, MAY (24)</u>
9:45 AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM	SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: PENTECOST

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

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





ALISON'S MEAL TRAIN: A meal train has been established for Rev. Alison and Mitch to help ease the transition home as a family of three! If you are interested in providing a meal for the Peters family, please utilize the following link or QR code.

<https://mealtrain.com/wn0kvq>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Spirit Night for Cumberland Choral Society

Monday, June 1st from 5:00-9:00 PM

Mention "Cumberland Choral Society" when you order

Rio Grande Restaurant

1217 National Highway LaVale

20% of order total comes to CCS (eat in or take out)

Enjoy an evening out while supporting CCS at the same time!

CUMBERLAND PARADE: On Saturday, June 27, 2026, the city of Cumberland will be hosting a parade to celebrate the 250th birthday of America. The Congregational Care Committee is providing a new FPC banner to be carried, or displayed on a vehicle in the parade! Attendees may wear their church t-shirts and will gather in the church parking lot at 12:15 to head downtown to line up. The parade begins at 1:00 PM, followed by a street party from 2-6 PM. If you are interested in walking or volunteering to drive your vehicle in the parade, please contact the church office or e-mail firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com by May 31st.

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

Join the Website Ministry Team!

How Can You Help?

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



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