

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
AUGUST 16, 2026 10:00 AM

GATHERING

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

SHINE, JESUS SHINE
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ARR. JOHN CARTER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

O taste and see:
The bread of life.
O taste and see:
The fruit of the vine.
O taste and see:
God is good.

Let us pray -

Lord of the harvest, we praise you for the bounty that only you can bring. Teach us to trust you with the persistence of the Canaanite woman, who sought healing for her child, and to advocate for the needs of one another. Fill each pantry with sustaining food and fill us with the fruits of the Spirit, that we might serve you until every hunger is met with justice and every outcast is welcomed home, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Amen.

* HYMN #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

"TWO OAKS"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we join in one voice to confess our sins before you. We confess our desire for power and exchange it for your peace. We confess our pride and exchange it for your perfect will. We confess our fears and exchange them for faith. We confess our desire to be right and exchange it for your righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. We are your people, and we submit ourselves to you again. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

"SARADAY"

Create in me a clean heart, o God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 133

¹ How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

SOLO

HOW BEAUTIFUL
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

TWILA PARIS, ARR. JOHN CARTER

SECOND READING

GENESIS 45:1-15

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

SERMON

"REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD"

REV. ALISON PETERS

*** HYMN #769**

FOR EVERYONE BORN

"FOR EVERYONE BORN"

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**

SICILIANA
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

WILLIAM WALOND (1725-1770)

*** DOXOLOGY #658**

GOD IS SO GOOD (verse 1)

"GOD IS SO GOOD"

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION****THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE****PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**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.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, thank You for feeding us at Your table. Through this holy meal, You have united us with Christ and with Your Church everywhere. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may go out into the world with joy and courage to love and serve others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN# 372

O FOR A WORLD

“AZMON”

* 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

I’M GONNA LIVE

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

*(As the postlude is offered, please be mindful that the livestream remains active
and that others may wish to remain in prayerful reflection. Thank you for honoring the music and the worship of others.)*

* 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.....Cathy Levitas
Directory of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Carolyn Mathews and Cindy Corley
Childcare.....Julie Courtney and Linda Mellon



HOME & GARDEN BOUNTY: On Sunday August 23rd, our congregation will be celebrating our summer garden bounty. We are hoping to decorate the sanctuary with our own fruits, vegetables, and flowers, so please bring some of your garden to share. Following the service, depending on the volume of vegetables and flowers, we will donate our produce to the Union Rescue Mission.



BRITTANY’S SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE

Monday- 7:30 AM-12:00 PM, Work from home 12:30 PM-2:30 PM

Tuesday- 7:30 AM-3:00 PM

Wednesday- Work from home

Thursday- 7:30 AM-3:00 PM

Friday- 7:30 AM-12:00 PM, Work from home 12:30 PM-2:30 PM



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.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, AUGUST (17)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, AUGUST (18)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (19)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

12:15 PM STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST (20)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

11:00 AM WORLD ARTIST EXPERIENCE LUNCH

6:00 PM SESSION POTLUCK

7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST (21)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, AUGUST (22)

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING

6:00 PM AARON HENDRICKSON FELLOWSHIP
DINNER

SUNDAY, AUGUST (23)

10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
HOME & GARDEN BOUNTY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of August 9, 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	\$ 125,906.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 124,565.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,340.00

ONLINE GIVING



SAVE THE DATE: FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC: Join us at Rocky Gap State Park on Sunday, September 13th for our Fall Kick-off worship service. The service will begin at 11:00 AM at the White Pine Pavilion on the left-hand side of Pleasant Valley Road.

Fellowship Dinner Schedule

~~June 27~~

~~Mike & Cathy Levitas~~

~~6 PM~~

~~July 25~~

~~Carolyn & Tom Mathews~~

~~5:30 PM~~

August 22

Aaron Hendrickson

6 PM

September 26

Buck & Jane Belt

6 PM

October 17

Debbie & Gary Roper

5:30 PM

Our fellowship dinner series was designed to create opportunities to gather, connect, and grow together as a congregation, outside of traditional worship services. With a wide range of dates offered by our gracious hosts, we hope you can find a convenient date to join us!

Guest lists will be curated on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in attending a dinner, please fill out the RSVP card below, or email Kelsey Gallo at firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com

Additional dates may be added as more hosts become available.

I would like to attend the following Fellowship Dinner:

Name _____ Number Attending _____

~~June 27th 6pm~~

~~Mike & Cathy Levitas~~

~~July 25th 5:30pm~~

~~Carolyn & Tom Mathews~~

____ August 22nd 6pm

Aaron Hendrickson

____ September 26th 6pm

Buck & Jane Belt

____ October 17th 5:30pm

Debbie & Gary Roper