

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
AUGUST 23, 2026 10:00 AM

GATHERING

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

TRUMPET VOLUNTARY - ALLEGRO
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHN BENNETT (1735-1784)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us all say,

"We come as we are to worship."

Let us all say,

"We celebrate the goodness of God's community."

Let us all say,

"We have each been through various trials."

Let us all say,

"If the Lord had not been on our side, where would we be?"

Let us all say,

"We worship God who is on our side."

Let us pray -

Holy One, we see your abundance before our very eyes. Thank you for this good and productive earth you have created. We offer our bounty for the good of our neighbor. Help us continue to be stewards of the ground so that all may be fed. Amen.

* HYMN #263

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME!

"CORONATION"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of how we waste the resources of the world. We confess how we misuse your creation. We are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully. We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. Forgive us and help us to be made new. 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 138

- ¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.
⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.
⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

SOLO

MINUET
OTTO ROSS, GUITAR

J.S. BACH

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12:1-8

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SERMON

"WHAT CAN I OFFER?"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #438

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

"TOPLADY"

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

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
OTTO ROSS, GUITAR

* 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

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# 700

I'M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME

"I'M GONNA LIVE"

* 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

MELITA

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

(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.....Sharon Squires
Directory of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musician.....Otto Ross, Guitar
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell and Wesley Mason
Childcare.....Bill and Ann Kellermeier



HOME & GARDEN BOUNTY: Today our congregation will be celebrating our summer garden bounty. Thank you for helping us decorate the sanctuary with fruits, vegetables, and flowers.



BRITTANY'S SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, JUNE 8TH.

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 (24)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, AUGUST (25)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (26)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

12:15 PM STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST (27)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST (28)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, AUGUST (29)

SUNDAY, AUGUST (30)

10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY



Thank you to congregation members who brought in vegetables, fruits, or flowers from their gardens to display in our sanctuary this morning. These will be delivered to the Union Rescue Mission.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of August 16, 2026

Total 2026 Pledges Promised	\$271,126.00
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Pre-paid pledges	\$ 70,507.00
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2026 Pledge Balance Promised	<u>\$200,618.00</u>
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Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 127,651.00
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Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 128,458.00
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Over/(Under)	\$ (807.00)
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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 27 6pm~~

~~Mike & Cathy Levitas~~

August 22nd 6pm

Aaron Hendrickson

October 17th 5:30pm

Debbie & Gary Roper

~~July 25 5:30pm~~

~~Carolyn & Tom Mathews~~

September 26th 6pm

Buck & Jane Belt

FALL KICK-OFF

Picnic

11:00 AM
SEPTEMBER 13TH 2026

White Pine Pavillion -
left side of Pleasant Valley Road in Flintstone,
Maryland.

Help us usher in the beautiful fall season with an outdoor worship service, followed by a picnic and fellowship. The Congregational Care team will provide entrees and drinks; please beind a side or dessert to share!

Name

Dish
