

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
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CORNET VOLUNTARY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ANONYMOUS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

FOR THE TROUBLES AND THE SUFFERINGS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO

Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people;
Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness;
Until your Kingdom come
Kyrie eleison!

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The wilderness is still.

The hungry are left empty.

The cracked earth crumbles.

The thirsty cry out.

The Promise Keeper pulls them close.

God, hear us now.

Water flows.

The Holy One listens.

A feast from heaven.

The Holy One provides.

Let us pray -

God of every blessing, we remember the works of your hands: the days you save us, the people who embrace us, the moments we feel free, and the dreams you give us. All of it is from you, Faithful One. Sustain us with your strength, that we may be surprised by the miraculous gift of life itself. Amen.

* HYMN #386

COME, WORSHIP GOD

"O QUANTA QUALIA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, it seems we cannot decide. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him to work, school, or home. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, at least for those who need it - not us.

Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of being grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continually complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Today we will 'retire' our good and faithful 'Friendship Pads'. As you greet your neighbors, have someone from your pew bring forward the Friendship Pad and place on the Communion Table.

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 145:1-8

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They will recount the glorious[a] splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate.
- ⁶ They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

ANTHEM

A TOUCHING PLACE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"DREAM ANGUS", ARR. JOHN L. BELL

Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
And Christ is the one who meets us here.

To the lost Christ shows his face
To the unloved he gives his embrace;
To those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.

Feel for the people we most avoid,
Strange or bereaved or never employed;
Feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
Feel for the women whom men have defiled,
Feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
And feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,
Riddled with doubt in loving abused;
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin
Which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening

came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERMON

"WHEN THE LABOR IS DONE."

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #36

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION

"AR HYD Y NOS"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CELEBRATING OUR WORSHIP SPACE AND OFFERING OUR MEMORIES

(We will take a moment to write down our memories of the Sanctuary.

We encourage you to write answers to the questions on the included sheet to be brought forward or collected during the Offertory.)

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

SUN OF MY SOUL
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. MONK

* DOXOLOGY #643

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD (verse 3)

"NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT"

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

LITANY OF DEDICATION FOR NEW CARPETS AND PEW UPHOLSTERING

Beloved, we gather with grateful hearts to dedicate this newly installed carpet
and these newly upholstered pews to the glory of God.

We give thanks to God for continued provision and blessings.

The Psalmist declares, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

We are glad to come into the house of the Lord, refreshed once again!

As we walk upon this carpet, may we remember to walk in God's ways.

Teach us Your ways, O Lord, and guide our steps.

As we gather in these pews, may we worship, pray, learn, and fellowship together.

May this house be a place of worship, welcome, and peace.

Micah proclaimed, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...
that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths."

May Your Word go forth with us from this house, O Lord! Amen.

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# 547

GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

"AR HYD Y NOS"

* BENEDICTION

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

ORA LABORA

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Reflective text:

Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky.

Till the long shadows, o'er our pathway lie,

And a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well, done, well done!"

(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.....Wesley Mason
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Bill Buttermark and Kathy Dowell
 Childcare.....Randy and Nadene Stroup

SANCTUARY DEDICATION: Today we dedicate the new carpet and pews during worship. We will have a moment to share our favorite memories of the sanctuary and bless the future gatherings in our space. We hope you will be there!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Remember, we are now in the second week of our fall worship schedule. Fall worship will be at 11:00 AM each Sunday.



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.

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, SEPTEMBER (21)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (22)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (23)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (24)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (25)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:30 PM CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (26)

9:00 AM P.E.O. MEETING
9:00 PM HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS
6:00 PM BELT FELLOWSHIP DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (27)

9:30 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Betty Luger's 96th birthday which is tomorrow, by her family.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 13, 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	\$ 145,896.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 144,028.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,867.00

ONLINE GIVING



CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE DAYS: Our youth have started a mini-series of Adventure Days with Miss Carolyn! We will be enjoying some outdoor outings around the county while the weather is still kind to us. We will be meeting at 4:30 PM on Friday, October 9th. Locations are to be determined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kelsey Gallo for details!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: MAKE DISCIPLES

Join us at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in the Dakota Room!

Matthew 28:18-20 is called "The Great Commission," and in these words we see Jesus send out his followers to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach people to obey all that Jesus taught them. He promises to be with them no matter what. Since this promise, followers of Jesus have welcomed new disciples into Christian community for almost two thousand years into and helped people come to know Christ and grow in faith.

In this unit, participants will learn that making disciples, at its simplest, is an invitation to others to live as followers of Christ. Although Christian beliefs and practices may vary within the same faith community, disciples of Jesus gather to worship and serve God together. Making disciples is not inviting others to have an identical faith to one's own; it is an invitation to live into a faith that meets a person's spiritual needs and contributes to the goodness of the community. The six dimensions of this practice that are discussed include: live like a disciple, go, be a witness, baptize, teach, and learn about Jesus, and trust in Jesus' presence always.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: The Worship and Music Committee will be setting the communion table on October 4th for World Communion Sunday. The table will have breads of the world set on cloth from around the globe.

Please look through your linen closets and cedar chests for fabrics you have collected from other countries and lend them to us for that day. We will layer the communion table with them. Plexiglass will protect them from spills and crumbs. Label your fabric with your name so we can be sure to return them to you the following week.

If you have any interesting baskets that we can use to hold various breads please also lend them to us for a few days and again label them with your name. Please drop off your fabrics and baskets in the volunteer office by Thursday, October 2nd. Thank you.

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING: On Sunday, October 4th we will have the opportunity to contribute to the World Communion Offering. This offering is a new way for the Presbyterians to “love kindness” in action. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are important causes supported by this offering. **Please consider giving to this offering on October 4th.**

TRUNK OR TREAT DONATIONS: The Congregational Care Committee is seeking donations of candy or small toy items to be distributed at our annual Trunk or Treat event on October 11th. Offering non candy items is part of the Teal Pumpkin initiative, aimed at being inclusive to children with food allergies or aversions.

In addition to donations, we are also seeking cars to be available to hand out treats! The trunk decorating does not need to be elaborate or time consuming!

If you are willing to participate, please return the attached slip, or contact Kelsey Gallo at firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com

Please RSVP or turn in any donations by October 8th.

Any and all donations and participation is greatly appreciated; we could not host this event without your help!

.....

I would like to participate in Trunk or Treat by providing my vehicle to hand out treats.

Name: _____

FALL CLEAN UP DAY: The Buildings & Grounds Committee invites you to come to help clean up the church from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM on Saturday, October 31st.

We plan to:

- remove all AC window units
- work to clear the weeds and brush from the bank in the rear of church
- clean up the front of the church grounds
- clean and organize the inside of the church.

We hope that you can join us!

SECOND SUNDAY

BAKED POTATO BAR

FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GATHERING PLACE

POTATOES AND TOPPING WILL BE PROVIDED BY CCC

**SECOND SUNDAY WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING WORSHIP, PRIOR TO
SETTING UP OUR ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT.**

**TRUNK OR TREAT WILL BE HELD 2-3:30PM.
SIGN UPS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE WILL BE
ANNOUNCED SOON.**

OCTOBER 11, 2026

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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~~