

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: MUSIC KICK-OFF SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

TRUMPET VOLUNTARY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SIMON STUBLEY (DIED 1754)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

ALLELUIA! PRAISE YE THE LORD"
THE JOYBELLS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG, ARRANGED: J. COURTNEY

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come, people of God, and remember the mind of Christ.

We come to seek the way of humility, love, and service.

If there is encouragement in Christ, consolation in love, and fellowship in the Spirit—

Then let us be united in heart and purpose.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

We lay down our pride and open our hearts to one another.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient, even to death on a cross.

We worship Jesus Christ, who emptied himself and gave himself for us.

Therefore, let us work out our salvation with reverence and awe.

For God is at work among us, giving us both the desire and the strength to do his good will.

Let us pray...

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this day and for the gift of gathering together in worship. Open our hearts to your presence and quiet our minds from the cares that distract us. Guide us in the days ahead. Give us wisdom in our decisions, patience in our relationships, courage when we face difficulties, and compassion for those around us. Renew our faith and deepen our trust in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #618

O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH

"DEO GRACIAS"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always had the mind of Christ. We have looked to our own interests before considering the needs of others. We have allowed pride to divide us and selfish ambition to guide us. We have sought recognition rather than service, status rather than humility, and our own way rather than your will.

When we have failed to love as Christ loved, forgive us. When we have held tightly to our privileges rather than giving ourselves for others, forgive us. When we have resisted obedience because the cost was too great, forgive us.

Empty us of our pride and fill us with the humility of Christ. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #698

TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM (x3)

"TAKE ME AS I AM"

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

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.

If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out one of the blue visitor cards and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 25:1-9

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

ANTHEM

WITH PIPES OF TIN AND WOOD MAKE KNOWN

ALFRED FEDAK

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

(The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing verse 4. The choir will sing verses 1-3.)

With Pipes of Tin and Wood Make Known

1 With pipes of tin and wood make known the truth each star dis -
2 With pipes of tin and wood re - start the fire the proph - ets
3 With pipes of tin and wood re - peat the mu - sic danced and
4 With pipes of tin and wood dis - close that song the world has
plays: cre - a - tion is a field that's sown with
and fan the flame with - in the heart to
played to wel - come home and warm - ly greet the
blurred, the hymn of life and love that flows from
seeds of thanks and praise. Ar - tic - u - late with
do what God would do. Pull out the stops that
prod - i - gal who strayed. Let heal - ing har - mo -
God's re - new - ing word. Then bold - ly o - pen
mea - sured sound the song that fills all things for
train the ear— the strings, the flute and reed— to
nies re - lease the hurts the heart com - piles that
wide the swell and with a trum - pet call an -
ev - en a - toms dance a - round and sol - id mat - ter sings.
lis - ten and more sub - tly hear God's call through hu - man need.
God through mu - sic may in - crease the grace that rec - on - ciles.
nounce the news we thirst to tell: that Christ is Lord of all.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger from *Borrowed Light*. © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Music: Alfred V. Fedak. © 2000 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com

This hymn may be photocopied for congregational use in a worship program if sufficient copies have been purchased for the choir.

—THOMAS H. TROEGER

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

SERMON

“MIND MELD”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #707

TAKE THOU OUR MINDS, DEAR LORD

“HALL”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MOMENT FOR MISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP

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

YOU ARE MY REFUGE

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA (1978 -)

KATELYN HENDRIX, & ALISON PETERS, SOPRANOS; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE

You are my refuge and my strength,

You are my shelter from ev'ry storm.

I will not fear when the ground shakes or mountains fall into the sea

I will not fear when oceans roar or mountains shake from swelling tide.

There is a river filled with life, a sacred place in which you dwell

Within its streams I find you there

I find your help at break of dawn

Though nations fear and kingdoms fade

Your voice brings hope when morning comes

You are with me, my fortress and strength!

Be still and know that I am.

* DOXOLOGY #643

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD (verse3)

“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.

* 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# 702

CHRIST BE BESIDE ME

“BUNESSAN”

* 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

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

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.....	Carl Belt
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....	Julie Courtney
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells; Katelyn Hendrix and Alison Peters, Sopranos;
.....	Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano; Zach Dodge, Baritone
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Otto Ross and David Stickler
Childcare.....	Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy

With the fall worship season beginning here at church, this morning's music brings all of our talented forces together for MUSIC KICKOFF SUNDAY! The JoyBells, Sanctuary Choir and Community Section Leaders are all contributing to worship.

Handbells have been with humans since the seventh century when monks crafted them to signal the passing of time and call worshipers to prayer. Singing choirs have been part of sacred music from the earliest organized religious traditions, with their roots in ancient civilizations and a formalized role in the Western Church by the sixth century CE.

The congregation is the GREATER CHOIR during worship and today our Anthem is a hymn expressing that joy in music requiring both the SANCTUARY CHOIR AND THE CONGREGATION. Please join in singing **both** the Introit with the JoyBells, and Verse 4 of the Anthem ~ please see the order of worship above.

Our music ministries at FPC involves over 30 participants, which definitely is a huge part of our church family. Members of the Sanctuary Choir are: Allie Blank (and trumpet), Alison Peters, Bob and Julie Courtney, Carolyn Mathews, Debi Mullan, Eric Ringler, Gary Hendrickson, Hans Killius, Jane Westcott, Karin Miller, Katelyn Hendrix, Mikayla and Zach Dodge (and guitar), Nancy Hodges, Richard Harris, and Susan Mills. In addition, instrumentalists participate throughout the year.

JoyBells ringers are: Jane Westcott, Nancy Lehmann, Carolyn Mathews, Tamela Rankin, Deb Hendrickson, Renee Kiddy, Linda Smith, Evan Swanger, David Rankin, Gary Allen, Richard Harris, Brenda Luger (substitute and flutist), and Katie Hendrix (winter/spring '26). Our church children chime the hour once a month. Julie Courtney, director.

THANK YOU, ALL!

Judith Brown, Director of Music Ministries



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.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (28)

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (29)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (30)

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER (1)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER (2)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
2:00 PM FULLER CENTER BIKE GROUP
(OVERNIGHT)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER (3)

FULLER CENTER BIKE GROUP
(OVERNIGHT)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER (4)

9:30 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
HOLY COMMUNION
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 20, 2026

Total 2026 Pledges Promised	\$271,126.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 70,507.00
2026 Pledge Balance Promised	\$200,618.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 148,776.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 147,921.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 854.00

ONLINE GIVING



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us at 9:45 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 the various breads please also lend them to us. 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.**

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!

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

We plan to:

- remove all AC window units
- clean up the church grounds
- clean and organize the inside of the church.

We hope that you can join us!

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, which is 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: _____

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

www.reallygreatsite.com +123-456-7890 @reallygreatsite

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~~

~~Deek & Jane Bell~~

~~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~~

~~Deek & Jane Bell~~

~~October 17th 5:30pm~~

~~Debbie & Gary Roper~~