

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
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 10:00 AM

GATHERING

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE RAISE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. WILBUR HELD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

A new song awaits us; God's Spirit is coming.
We can hear the music; we're ready to move!
God's praise will be on our lips!
Neighbors from far and wide will pour out from their doorways.
God's joy will be alive in the streets; friends and strangers will gather.
All will rejoice; together, we will breathe a deep sigh of peace.

Let us pray -

God of goodness, when we gather, we are with you. Bind us together in your promise, that our dark nights will soon be over, and the brightness of day will be near. The hour has come. Salvation is here. Let us be your light. Let us be your love. Amen.

* HYMN #619

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN

"LAUDA ANIMA"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and life, you call us to wake up from our sleep and live in your daylight. We confess that we often prefer the shadows. We fall back into old habits of selfishness, division, and apathy. Forgive us when our lives do not reflect the light of Christ or the active love we owe our neighbors. Cleanse our hearts, strip away the deeds of darkness, and help us put on the armor of light. 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 119:33-40

- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.
³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.
³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.
³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word.
³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.
³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.
⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

SOLO

LARGO AND ALLEGRO
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

HENRY HERON (18TH CENTURY)

SECOND READING

ROMANS 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

SERMON

"WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #529

DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER

"UNION SEMINARY"

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

CHRIST, OUR BLESSED SAVIOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JAN BENDER

* 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).
Today we are serving gluten-free bread for communion. We strive for an inclusive method to share communion together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN# 203

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

"CHEREPONI"

* 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

TWO OAKS

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.....Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Ian Gray and David Stickler
Childcare.....Cindy Corley and Kathy Dowell

LABOR DAY: Please note that the church office will be closed tomorrow, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.

FALL KICK-OFF: Join us at Rocky Gap State Park next 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.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Reminder, our fall worship schedule resumes next Sunday, September 13th. Fall worship will begin at 11:00 AM.



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 is passes to you 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, SEPTEMBER (7)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (8)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:30 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (9)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (10)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (11)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (12)

HERITAGE DAYS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (13)

HERITAGE DAYS
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FALL KICK OFF SERVICE
ROCKY GAP STATE PARK



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Eugene D. Munro and Bernice L. Munro, by their family

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of August 31, 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	\$ 136,741.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 136,243.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 497.00

ONLINE GIVING



SANCTUARY DEDICATION SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 20TH

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 20th as we dedicate the new carpet and pews during worship. We will have a moment to remember our favorite memories in the sanctuary and bless the future gatherings in our space. We hope you will be there!

HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS: The Hike for the Homeless, which will benefit the Union Rescue Mission of Western Maryland, will be held Saturday, September 26, 2026 at the Main Beach at Rocky Gap State Park. The Hike will begin at 9:00 AM followed by a picnic-style lunch and presentation at 12:00 PM. Please use the registration forms in Brittany's office. The registration fee is \$35 per person. Payment may be made online via PayPal or by check to: Union Rescue Mission and reference Hike in the memo. **Pre-registration is due by September 7th to guarantee a t-shirt.**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: MAKE DISCIPLES

Join us at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in the Dakota Room beginning September 27th!

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.

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 September 25th and October 9th. Locations are to be determined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kelsey Gallo for details!

FALL KICK-OFF

Picnic

11:00 AM
SEPTEMBER 13TH 2026

**White Pine Pavillion -
on the 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 bring a side or dessert to share!**

Name

Dish

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~~

~~August 22nd 6pm~~

~~Aaron Hendrickson~~

October 17th 5:30pm

Debbie & Gary Roper

~~July 25th 5:30pm~~

~~Carolyn & Tom Mathews~~

September 26th 6pm

Buck & Jane Belt