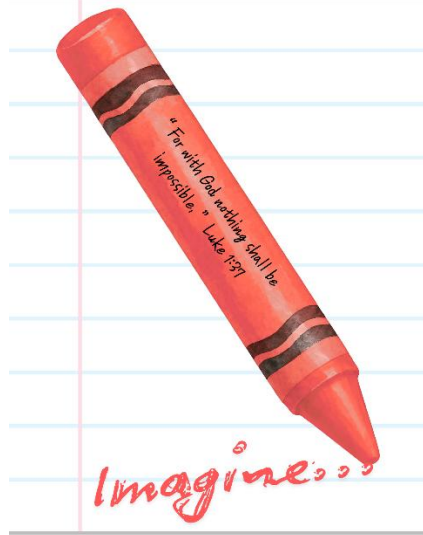


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: STEWARDSHIP KICK OFF
OCTOBER 18, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAGIO
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

BENEDETTO MARCELLO (1686-1739)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

TO BLESS THE EARTH
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"CHRISTUS, DER IS MEIN LEBEN"

God crowns the year with goodness; the earth God's mercy fills;
The wilderness is fruitful, and joyful are the hills.

With grain the fields are covered, the flocks in pastures graze;
All nature joins in singing a joyful song of praise.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come, for Christ calls us into a community of welcome.

We come, ready to make room for one another.

Come, for God's love reaches beyond every boundary.

We come, trusting that there is room for all in God's grace.

Come and imagine a church where strangers become neighbors, where burdens are shared, and where every person is received with love.

We come to worship the God who welcomes us all.

Let us pray -

Welcoming God, you gather us into a community where there is room for every person. You meet us in our need and draw us into the healing presence of Christ. Open our eyes to the people around us, open our hearts to those who feel forgotten or unseen, and open our lives to the surprising ways your love comes to us. Make this congregation a place of welcome, and make us people who carry your welcome wherever we go. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

"TWO OAKS"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Welcoming God, we confess that we have not always made room for others. We have been comfortable with those who are like us and uncertain of those who are different. We have overlooked the lonely, passed by the hurting, and sometimes treated your church as though it belonged to us.

Forgive us. Teach us again the wide embrace of Christ, who welcomed the sick, the searching, the stranger, and the forgotten. Give us courage to open our doors, our tables, our hearts, and our lives. May your welcome become our welcome. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #579

LORD, HAVE MERCY (Vs.1)

“KYRIE ELEISON”

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

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

ROMANS 15:5-16

⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope.” ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may

abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you

yourself are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Nevertheless, on some points

I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ

Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the gentiles may be acceptable,

sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

ANTHEM

WITH A VOICE OF SINGING

MARTIN SHAW

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praise to the honour of his name,

Make his praise to be glorious.

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 4:23-25

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis, and he cured them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

SERMON

“IMAGINE: THE WELCOME”

REV. ALISON PETERS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

KATHY GETTY

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

SICILIANA
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

* DOXOLOGY #607

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDREDTH"

Praise God, whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, thank you for all that you have given us: the people we love, the world you have made, and the gifts you have placed within us. Help us to imagine what we can do with what you have entrusted to us.
Give us eyes to see the beauty around us, hearts that notice those who need compassion,
hands ready to welcome and serve, and courage to make a difference where we can.
Take these gifts we offer, and take our lives as well. Use them to make your world a little more loving,
beautiful, and whole. 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# 761

CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

"BEECHER"

* 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

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO GOD
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"DIX"

Reflective text:

*Make a joyful noise to God!
All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed,
Unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name,
Ages old, yet still the same.*

(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.....	David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Michael and Cathy Levitas
Childcare.....	Rick and Robin Bissell



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, OCTOBER (19)

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER (20)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (21)

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER (22)

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER (23)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER (24)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER (25)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDER: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY**

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of October 11, 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	\$ 158,849.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 159,599.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (750.00)

ONLINE GIVING



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in memory of her father, George Smith, who would have turned 100 on October 22, by Linda Smith.

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, and
- clean and organize the inside of the church.

We hope that you can join us!

ALL SAINTS' DAY: As we prepare for All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1st, we would like to invite members of the congregation to submit the names of loved ones who have passed away since November 1, 2025, and whom they would like remembered. The person did not need to be a member of First Presbyterian, but if they were, we would like that noted as it has been in previous years.

BALTIMORE PRESBYTERY MEETING: First Presbyterian Church will host the Baltimore Presbytery Meeting on November 19th. We would like to invite the congregation to attend and ask for volunteers to serve as greeters, welcome our visitors, and help direct them throughout the building. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Sharon Kazary.

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.



A Weekend with Carl McColman

"To Be God's Pride and Joy!"

**Fri. October 23 – Community Cafe –
127 N Centre St. (6 pm)**

**"For ALL the Saints: Unusual
Spirituality from Surprising Saints"**

**Sat. October 24 – First Presbyterian Church –
11 Washington St. (9 am–2 pm) RSVP recommended**

"Coffee with Carl"

Sun. October 25 – FPC (9:45 am)

Pride Festival – Canal Place (12 pm–4 pm)

**Carl will be leading Sunday School followed by an appearance
in our booth at the 10th annual Cumberland Pride Festival!**

Please RSVP to 301-777-3700 by 10/19



FALL BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR ALISON

"DANIEL: FAITHFUL IN EXILE"



Oct. 29th

DANIEL 1

"Faithful in Exile"



Nov. 5th

DANIEL 2-3

"Whose Kingdom?"



Nov. 12th

DANIEL 4-6

"Faithfulness under power."

Dinner will be served at 5pm followed by
bible study from 5:30-6:30.

Please RSVP to the church office by 10/26.



Save the Dates:

October 9th – Kids Adventure Day with
Miss Carolyn at Rocky Gap 4:30pm

October 11th – Family Sunday School,
Second Sunday Baked Potato Bar & Trunk
or Treat 2-3:30

October 17th – Fellowship Dinner
at the Roper's (RSVP by 10/9)

October 18th – Stewardship Kickoff
"Imagine..."

October 23rd, 24th, 25th
A Weekend with Carl McGolman
Friday – Community Cafe
Saturday – FPC
Sun – FPC & PRIDE Festival

October 25th – 12:00-4:00 PM
Cumberland PRIDE Festival

October 29th, Nov. 5th, Nov. 12th
Thursday Night Bible Study
with Pastor Alison
Dinner at 5, study 5:30-6:30 PM

November 8th – Family Sunday School &
Second Sunday Thanksgiving

November 21st 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Fall Retreat with Martha
Elder Wisdom, Second Half of Life Spirituality
and a Theology of Aging

November 29th – Hanging of the Greens

Additional information may be found
by contacting firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com
or the church office.