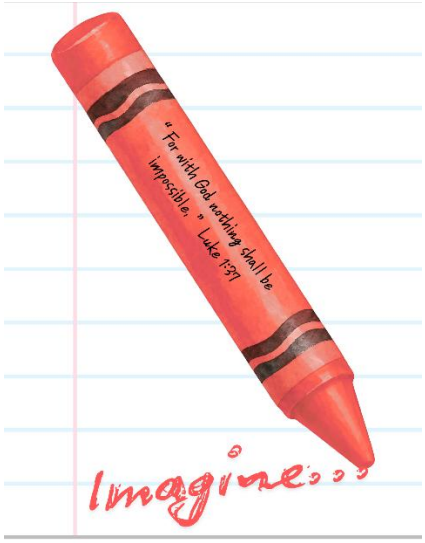
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
OCTOBER 25, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM **CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

OPENING VOLUNTARY *SIYAHAMBA* ARR. JOHN CARTER
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *DREAM ON, DREAM ON*
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Dream on, dream on, children of peace
Till on earth God's kingdom come.
Wolf and lamb will feed together;
Lions like oxen will eat straw.
Dust shall be the serpent's food;
No one shall destroy or hurt.
Children of earth in all colors,
Live in peace and harmony.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Jesus calls us to see our neighbor.
Give us eyes to notice those whom others overlook.
Jesus calls us to draw near to those who suffer.
Give us hearts that are moved with compassion.
Jesus calls us to go and do likewise.
Give us hands ready to serve.
Imagine a world where mercy crosses every boundary.
By God's grace, let us begin here.

Let us pray -
Merciful God, you are never distant from human suffering. You draw near to the brokenhearted and call your people to draw near as well. Teach us to see as you see, to notice what we would rather overlook, and to respond with generous compassion. Shape our lives so that mercy is not simply something we admire but something we practice. Through Christ, our neighbor and our Savior. Amen.

*** HYMN #697** *TAKE MY LIFE* "HENDON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we often find it easier to love in theory than in practice. We have seen suffering and kept our distance. We have allowed inconvenience, fear, or difference to become excuses for indifference.
Forgive us for the times we have asked, "Who is my neighbor?" when you have already placed a neighbor before us. Give us the compassion of Christ: eyes that see, hearts that care, and hands willing to cross the road. Make us good neighbors in a world that desperately needs mercy. 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.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

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 MICAH 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
[2] Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.
[3] "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
[4] For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
[5] O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."
[6] "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
[7] Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
[8] He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

ANTHEM *WALK IN THE LIGHT* "JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" ARR. ANDRE THOMAS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the Light of the world.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn King."
Jesus, the Light of the world
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world.

SECOND READING LUKE 10:25-37 CARL MCCOLMAN

[25] An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" [26] He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" [27] He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." [28] And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." [29] But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" [30] Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. [31] Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. [32] So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. [33] But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. [34] He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. [35] The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' [36] Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" [37] He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

SERMON **"***IMAGINE: THE COMPASSION"* REV. ALISON PETERS

*** HYMN #69** *I, THE LORD OF SEAS AND SKY* "HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP JULIE COURTNEY

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 MY LORD, WHAT A MORNIN" NEGRO SPIRITUAL ARR, H. BURLEIGH

MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

My Lord, what a mornin';
When the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways
Join that heavenly band.

*** 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# 754** *HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER* "BARONITA"

*** 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 *SOON AND VERY SOON*
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

(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.)

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* 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.....Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir and Mikayla Dodge; Mezzo-Soprano
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Jeff and Kathy Getty
Childcare.....Kathy Dowell

CARL MCCOLMAN is a contemplative writer, speaker, and spiritual director whose work explores the wisdom of Christian mysticism, Celtic spirituality, and contemplative prayer. He is the author of numerous books on spirituality, including *The New Big Book of Christian Mysticism*, *Read the Bible Like a Mystic*, and *Eternal Heart*. Carl's work builds bridges between ancient spiritual traditions and contemporary seekers, inviting people into a deeper experience of silence, prayer, and the boundless nature of divine love.
A longtime student of contemplative practice, Carl has a particular interest in the rich spiritual heritage of the Celtic world and in the ways mystical Christianity speaks to the questions of our time. He lives in the Atlanta area and offers teaching, retreats, and spiritual direction both in person and online.

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.

S M T W T F S
This week at our Church

MONDAY, OCTOBER (26)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM — CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER (27)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (28)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM — STAFF MEETING
6:30 PM — JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM — NA MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER (29)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM — FALL BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER (30)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER (31)
9:00 AM — FALL CLEAN UP DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (1)
9:45 AM — ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM — SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS' DAY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	**as of October 18, 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	$ 171,779.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	$ 163,492.00
Over/(Under)	$ 8, 286.00

ONLINE GIVING

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Carlotta Shaffer's birthday on October 24th. Our memories of you help ease the pain of missing you a little less. Love always, Christine, Brenda, Gary and family.

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.

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 McColman
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.