

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GOD IS LOVE
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

THOMAS C. GRIGGS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“McKEE”

In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We gather with hope in our hearts,
for something happens here that teaches us that God is present.
We know this place is sacred,
for something happens here that teaches us that God is our center.
We gather with joyful praise,
for something happens here that teaches us that God is forever faithful.

Let us pray -

Eternal One, your breath gives life, your hands paint the skies, your love brings freedom, and your kingdom will endure beyond all generations to the ends of the earth. Let our mouths proclaim your praise and our hearts dwell on you alone, that we might shout, Hallelujah to our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

* HYMN #509

ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY

“HOLY MANNA”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 80:7-15

- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;
¹¹ it sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
¹² Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine,
¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted.

ANTHEM

ONE WORLD, ONE COMMUNION

PEPPER CHOPLIN

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

One world, one communion, one faith in Christ, the Son.
One world, one communion, and there is room for ev'ryone.
Wherever people gather to share the bread and cup,
Though we are many, we are one in love.
So much we have in common, though we are miles apart,
Through the Holy Spirit, we are one in heart. And so we are
One world, one communion, one faith in Christ, the Son.
One world, one communion, and there is room for ev'ryone.
Wherever bread is broken and where the cup is poured,
Brothers and sisters we are one in the Lord.
Though many things divide us, with great diversity,
Through the pow'r of love we will find unity.
So help us see there's One world, one communion, one faith in Christ, the Son.
One world, one communion, and there is room for ev'ryone.
There is room for all to come.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

SERMON

"GOALS: ONE TABLE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #508

COME TO THE TABLE

"COME TO THE TABLE"

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

I AM A CHILD OF GOD
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

PAUL CARDALL

* 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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Communion will be served this morning in a traditional manner –

servers will pass the plate with bread and the tray with cups of juice individually.

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

Please hold the bread and juice until all have been served, and you will be invited to partake together.)

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

PASSING OF THE PLATE *(please wait until all have been served)*

SHARING OF THE CUP *(please wait until all have been served)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for uniting us as the Body of Christ and for feeding us with the precious gift of your presence. As we have shared this meal, you have connected us with sisters and brothers in every language, culture, and corner of the earth. Unite us still. Grant us the strength and wisdom to seek peace, to treasure signs of reconciliation, and to bear life-giving fruit in a broken world. Send us forth in the power of your Spirit to be your hands and feet of love and hope, until we feast together at your heavenly banquet in glory. Amen.

* HYMN# 536

RISE, O CHURCH, LIKE CHRIST ARISEN

"SURGE ECCLESIA"

* 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

"JERNIGAN"

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.)

* 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
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, Flute
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Cindy Corley and Cathy Levitas

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING: Today we 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.**



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 worshipping 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 (5)

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER (6)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM MISSION MEETING
7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER (7)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM STAFF MEETING
5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER (8)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER (9)

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER (10)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER (11)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL
2:00 PM TRUNK OR TREAT

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of September 27, 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	\$ 151,126.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 151,814.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (688.00)

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: 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.

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: _____



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~~