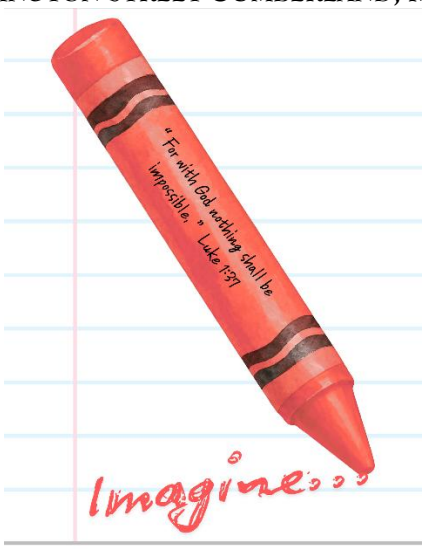
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *FUGUE IN F MINOR* CHARLES BURNEY (1726-1814)
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *A THOUSAND AGES IN THY SIGHT* "ST. ANNE"
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

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

Our God is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine.
We come with hearts open to God's possibilities.
The Spirit gives each of us gifts for the work of love.
We offer our gifts for the good of all.
Imagine what God might do through the gifts gathered in this place.
Imagine what becomes possible when we create, serve, and dream together.
To the God who works within us and among us, be glory, now and always.
Let us worship the God whose imagination is greater than ours.

Let us pray -
God of infinite possibilities, you are always creating, always calling, always making a way. You have placed gifts within each of us and woven those gifts together for the life of the world. Awaken our imagination. Help us imagine not only what we can accomplish, but what you can accomplish through us. Amen.

*** HYMN #275** *A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD* "EIN' FESTE BURG"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creative God, we confess that we sometimes make our world smaller than your vision. We say, "it cannot be done." We cling to what is familiar. We compare our gifts with the gifts of others or convince ourselves that what we have to offer is too small to matter.

Forgive us. Remind us that every gift comes from you and that your Spirit is at work through ordinary people in extraordinary ways. Free us from fear and comparison. Give us courage to imagine, generosity to share, and faith to trust what you can do through us. 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 PSALM 103:1-5, 17-22

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.
21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers who do his will.
22 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

ANTHEM *WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME* "THE SUMMONS"
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoner free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

SECOND READING EPHESIANS 3

3 This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, [2] for surely you have already
heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you [3] and how the mystery was made known to me by
revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, [4] a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the
mystery of Christ. [5] In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: [6] that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
[7] Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his
power. [8] Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the
boundless riches of Christ [9] and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who
created all things, [10] so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the
rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in
Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him. [13] I pray, therefore,
that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. [14] For this reason I bow my knees before the
Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. [16] I pray that, according to the riches of his
glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit [17] and that Christ
may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. [18] I pray that you may have the
power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth [19] and to know the love of
Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20] Now to him who by the power
at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, [21] to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

*** HYMN #711** *LORD OF ALL GOOD* "TOULON"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF PLEDGES 2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

(As an act of commitment, please bring forward your pledge cards and place them in the basket on the communion table.
You may also place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *THANKS BE TO THEE* G.F. HANDEL, ARR. GERRY LUETHI
THE JOYBELLS

*** DOXOLOGY #607** *PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW* *"OLD HUNDREDTH"*

Praise God, from 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# 853** *WE ARE MARCHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD* "SIYAHAMBA"

*** 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 *KRESMER*
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN
Reflective text:
We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
(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
Director of The JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir and The JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Jeff and Kathy Getty
Childcare.....Cindy Corley and Nadene Stroup



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, NOVEMBER (16)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
1:00 PM — CARPET CLEANING
7:00 PM — CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (17)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM — SESSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (18)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM — PIANO TUNING
12:15 PM — STAFF MEETING
6:30 PM — JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM — NA MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (19)
HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:00 PM — ROBOTICS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER (20)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM — CHORAL SOCIETY SOLOIST REHEARSAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER (21)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (22)
9:45 AM — ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM — SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	**as of November 8, 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	$ 183,012.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	$ 175,170.00
Over/(Under)	$ 7, 841.00

ONLINE GIVING



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in memory of her mother, Phyllis "Perk" Smith, by Nancy Hodges.



Please note that the church office will be CLOSED on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th in observance of Thanksgiving.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Sponsored by Cumberland Area Interfaith Ministerial Association (CAIMA) Join us on at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 24th at Soul's Won Outreach Cathedral** (525 National Highway LaVale, MD) **All are welcome to celebrate and give thanks!**

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us after worship on **Sunday, November 29th** for our Hanging of the Greens event. Lunch will be provided. All ages are welcome to participate in the decorating of the church. **If your child plans to attend, you must RSVP to Kelsey Gallo by Friday, November 20th.** Join us for an afternoon of Christmas cheer designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ.



THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS will be exploring the words and stories of prophetic figures in Scripture which guides readers through an Advent practice that speaks ancient comfort to modern souls. This study will begin on the first day of Advent, November 29, at 9:45 AM in the Dakota Room. It will be available on Zoom. The following is from the Introduction.

Witness to the Light,
An Advent Study with the Prophets by Erin Wathen
Introduction
The weight of the world is heavy these days. To spare us all a litany of gloom and doom—which would likely be updated, modified, and freshly awful by this time tomorrow—I invite us all instead to take a moment and reflect on what is feeling particularly heavy in this present moment. What issues are weighing on your heart? What worries for your family or your future are keeping you up at night? And more broadly speaking: Who is suffering in your community today? Where is the world aching from violence or disaster? Where do you witness the rich and powerful reaching for more, adding to the burden of the oppressed? Can you hear the voices of those on the margins, calling out for justice? What is making you weary these days? Is there an empty place that's aching for healing or new life? Now, holding all of that weariness together, hear the invitation that rings out from the desert:
Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! Isaiah 2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th at 7:30PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th at 4:00PM
CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY
presents
"HIGHLIGHTS FROM MESSIAH"
By G. F. HANDEL
Handel's "Messiah" is unquestionably the most-performed choral work
in the English-speaking world (though relatively unknown elsewhere).
For many of us, Christmas would not be complete without it.
Did you know that the Choral Society was at one time known as the
"Messiah Chorus" -- maybe not officially but to many of its members.
The Christmas section, Part 1, was performed yearly in December.
This December, it's time once again to perform this great work
BUT with a little twist:
NOT the entire work
NOT just the Christmas Section
NOT just the choruses or the solos
BUT
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ENTIRE WORK
SECTIONS 1 ,2 AND 3
CHORUSES
PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA AND SOLOISTS
WITH THE CONCERT LASTING
APPROX 60 MINUTES.
For tickets & details visit
cumberlandchoralsociety.org
Tickets are also available at the door

Grey is the New Black

Join Rev. Martha MacGill for conversation on faith and spirituality in the second half of life.

The 'second half of life' is one of new opportunities as well as challenges. What do Scripture and our faith traditions tell us about this time of life? What might God be calling us to do as we prepare to leave or have left full-time employment? What might God be calling you to as you transition to a new pace or situation at home? We'll gather for an afternoon of conversation and refreshments and ponder together.

2-4 pm

First Presbyterian Church

11 Washington Street

Saturday

Nov. 21

Please RSVP to the church office by 11/18.

301-777-3700 | firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR AN

OLD FASHIONED *Christmas*

AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER, DELICIOUS TREATS, AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



FOLLOWING OUR INDOOR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE JOIN US TO **CAROL TO THE KENSINGTON**

SUN. DEC 13,

12 PM - 2 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

COOKIE DECORATING
ORNAMENT MAKING
CAROLING

RSVPS ARE APPRECIATED

FIRSTPRESBYTERIANSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

301-777-3700