FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

First PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Cumberland, MD
Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *BAPTIZED IN WATER* "BUNESSAN"
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN
Reflective Text:
Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *CHILD OF BLESSING, CHILD OF PROMISE* "KINGDOM"
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Child of blessing child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY** *-Adapted from Psalm 100*

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Many: We serve God with gladness and joy!
One: Come into the presence of the Holy with a song in your heart.
Many: We follow the way of the God who created us.
One: Come this sacred way with gratitude and praise!
Many: We are the sheep of God's pasture. We give thanks and bless God's name.
One: For God is God and God's steadfast love endures forever.
Many: For God is Good and God's faithfulness extends through the generations.
Let us pray: **Faithful and Loving God, in this complicated world full of messy humans, you call us and claim us and say we are good. You pour your grace and justice and truth into our spirits and invite us to make a joyful noise and a beloved community in your name. Help us to remember who you have created us to be. Help us to follow in your holy way, this day and always. Amen**.
One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Many: Let us serve God with gladness, and come into God's presence with singing!

*** HYMN #35** *PRAISE YE THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY* "LOBE DEN HERREN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Relentless Love and Mercy, hear our prayer. We seek to follow your way, to listen for your guidance, and to serve others in your name, and yet, sometimes we become distracted, we fall weary, and we make mistakes. Forgive us when we abandon your call. Forgive us when we ignore our neighbors. Forgive us when we reject your wisdom. And help us always to return to you. Renew our spirits and strengthen our faith, again and again, for this journey.
Now and always, 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 EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their
flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which
they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them
from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of
Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the
mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I
will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat
and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you
pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their
shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

ANTHEM *THE OLD HUNDREDTH PSALM TUNE* "OLD HUNDRED" ARR. RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth-tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Oh enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

SECOND READING MATTHEW 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All
the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at
his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of
the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and
you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or
thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and
gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer
them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then
he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil
and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit
me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or
in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of
the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into
eternal life."

SERMON *REV.* DR. ERIN COUNIHAN

*** HYMN #187** *SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US* "BRADBURY"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

BAPTISM OF DELLA CATHERINE PETERS

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM HYMN #188 *JESUS LOVES ME* "JESUS LOVES ME"

1 Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO *WITHER'S ROCKING HYMN* RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Sweet baby, sleep! What ails my dear?
What ails my darling thus to cry?
Be still, my child, and lend thine ear
To hear me sing thy lullaby.
My pretty lamb, forbear to weep;
Be still my dear; sweet baby sleep.

Whilst thus thy lullaby I sing,
For thee great blessings ripening be;
Thine eldest brother is a King,
And hath a kingdom bought for thee.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

When God with us was dwelling here,
In little babes he took delight;
Such innocents as thou, my dear,
Are ever precious in his sight.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep. *-Text by George Wither*

*** 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# 475** *COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING* "NETTLETON"

*** 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 *CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION* "WESTMINSTER ABBEY"

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

Guest Preacher.....Dr. Erin Counihan
Liturgist.....Cathy 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.....Cindy Corley and Kathy Dowell
Childcare.....Jane Belt, Norm and Barb Nicol

WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME THE REV. DR. ERIN COUNIHAN AS OUR VISITING PASTOR THIS MORNING. Erin serves in Washington, DC as pastor of Church of the Pilgrims and Western Presbyterian Church, two congregations worshiping and serving together as they are working toward a merger. She was lucky enough to get to know Pastor Alison while they were both seminarians at Princeton. Erin could not be more honored or excited to be with the saints of First Cumberland on this special occasion as we all promise to love baby Della and share God's story with her.



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 (23)
7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (24)
7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (25)
7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
BRITTANY IN THE OFFICE UNTIL NOON
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (26)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER (27)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER (28)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (29)
9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12:00 PM HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of November 15, 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	$ 184,437.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	$ 179,062.00
Over/(Under)	$ 5, 374.00

ONLINE GIVING





The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Jason Kiddy, son of Ray and Renee Kiddy.



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.



BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER: On Friday, November 29th, Jane O' Rourke will be turning 102 years old! We would like to help her celebrate by showering her with birthday cards. If you would like to send a birthday greeting, please use the addresses below to send your warm wishes.

Jane O'Rourke
Egle Nursing Home, RM 103
57 Jackson St
Lonaconing, MD 21539-1307

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

Christmas Poinsettias 2026

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office Sunday, December 6th.

Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary at the Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for $7.50 for each poinsettia, marking "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA" in the memo line.

Number of poinsettias:_____ at $7.50 each **Total** $ _____

I will pick up my poinsettia: ☐ I wish to donate my poinsettia: ☐

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: $ _____ **Total $ _____**

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) _____

_____

_____

By: _____

Please return your order no later than Sunday, December 6th.

Christmas Music Offering 2026



If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check with "Christmas Music 2026" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit your check and dedication no later than Sunday, December 13th.**

NAME:_____ PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: $_____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one)_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY
presents
"HIGHLIGHTS FROM MESSIAH"
By G. F. HANDEL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th at 7:30PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th at 4:00PM

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

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