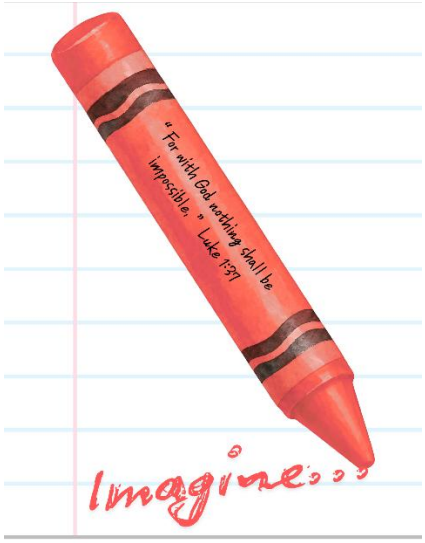
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

11:00 AM	**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**	YOUNG DISCIPLES
OPENING VOLUNTARY	*THANKSGIVING* JUDITH BROWN, PIANO	*ARR. J.M. HAYDN*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *WOMB OF LIFE AND SOURCE OF BEING* "RAQUEL"
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Womb of life and source of being, home of every restless heart,
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears and laughter; we are nurtured by your care.

Mother, Brother, holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one in three and three in one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
Ever singing, every praising, one with all, and one with you.

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

God meets us on the road and calls us by name.
God is still transforming lives.
What seems finished may become a new beginning.
What seems impossible is not beyond God's grace.
Imagine what God can do with a life surrendered to discipleship.
Imagine what God can do through a transformed people.
Come, worship the God who makes all things new.
We offer ourselves to God's transforming love.

Let us pray -
Transforming God, you met Saul on the road and opened his eyes to a new way of seeing. You turned his certainty into calling and his direction toward your purposes. Meet us on our own roads. Where we need to change, change us. Where we need new vision, open our eyes. Where we have stopped imagining what is possible, renew our hope. Make our lives instruments of your grace and your church a people always becoming more like Christ. Amen.

*** HYMN #442** *JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA* "WOODWORTH"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of transformation, we confess that we sometimes resist the new life you offer.
We hold tightly to old assumptions, old wounds, old habits, and old ways of seeing.
Like Saul, we can be so certain of our own way that we fail to recognize where you are leading us.
Forgive us for the ways we resist your Spirit. Open our eyes. Turn our hearts. Transform our lives. Give us the humility to follow you even when your path leads somewhere we did not expect. 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 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-20

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human
point of view, we no longer know him in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has
passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting
their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since
God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

ANTHEM *WAKE, AWAKE!* LYNN ZETTLEMOYER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

Wake, awake the night is almost over;
Joy comes riding on the winds of dawn!
Come, now lift your voice and join the chorus;
Celebrate and rejoice in song!

How still and silent the night
Then dawn arrives with its wondrous light
So unrelenting, in strong, silent splendor,
The hopeful promise of a new day has come.

Celebrate the promise of a brand new morn!
Celebrate with gladness!
Celebrate with joy!
Celebrate and rejoice in song!

SECOND READING ACTS 9:1-22

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked
him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he
might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from
heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute
me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the
city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard

the voice but saw no one. [8] Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. [9] For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.
[10] Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." [11] The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, [14] and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." [15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; [16] I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." [17] So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [18] And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, [19] and after taking some food, he regained his strength.
For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, [20] and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." [21] All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" [22] Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

*** HYMN #649** *AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND* "AMAZING GRACE"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP BRENDA LUGER

MOMENT FOR MISSION CHERYL BURKE

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 *RETURN TO THE HEART* DAVID LANZ
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

*** 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# 726** *WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME* "KELVINGROVE"

*** 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 *ASH GROVE*
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO
Reflective text:
Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise.
(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.....Sharon Squires
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Carl Belt and Ian Gray
Childcare.....Michael and Cathy Levitas



SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL-THANKSGIVING GATHERING: Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our Thanksgiving Second Sunday Gathering.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Today, Cheryl Burke and Veda Gill, of Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan will give the Stewardship "Moment for Mission", focusing on one of the missions we support with our pledges. PEB is educating the "poorest of the poor" alongside Muslim students with excellent results. Plan to stay after the service for the meal, and learn more about PEB.



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 (9)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:45 PM — ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
7:00 PM — CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (10)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (11)
LEARNING TREE: PANCAKES WITH POP
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:15 PM — STAFF MEETING
6:30 PM — JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM — NA MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (12)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM — FALL BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER (13)
7:30 AM — CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
9:30 AM — ORGAN TUNING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER (14)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (15)
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 1, 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	$ 175,677.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	$ 171,277.00
Over/(Under)	$ 4, 399.00

ONLINE GIVING

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 who would like to volunteer can contact Sharon Kazary.

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



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 does Scripture and our faith traditions tells us about this time of life? What might God be calling us to do as we prepare to 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

Save the Dates:

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.