

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

JUNE 2, 2024

10:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAGIO
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ROLF LOVLAND

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:

Within ourselves,

Beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

We need only listen to the music of life,

The words of children,

The questions of the curious,

The rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

Let us pray -

Creating God, we gather in your name to worship. We give thanks that there is a small spark within us. Kindle that small spark into a flame of love and service.

Sustaining God, we gather in your name to worship. We celebrate your loving presence in our life.

Nurturing God, we gather in your name to worship. We rejoice as you teach us about love and forgiveness. Help us to grow in faith, trust, and love. May our worship, witness, and service bring honor to you. Amen.

* HYMN #29

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

"O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still.

Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible; When we wonder how You could love us just as we are, when we forget our intricate construction, fearfully, wonderfully made in Your image.

Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew. You know our hearts. And you love us still. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #188

JESUS LOVES ME!

"JESUS LOVES ME"

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.

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.

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.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 139:1-12

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

SOLO

I AM A CHILD OF GOD
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

MILDRED PETIT, ARR. PAUL CARDALL

SECOND READING

PSALM 139:13-24

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. ¹⁹ O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me— ²⁰ those who speak of you maliciously and lift themselves up against you for evil! ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

SERMON

"MADE FOR SOMETHING"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #401

HERE IN THIS PLACE

"GATHER US IN

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

BRIGHTLY BEAMS
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

JASON TONOLI

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDREDTH"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Welcoming God, thank you for your constant invitation to this table. May we who have found a place here be sent to gather more. Give us strength and energy to spread the good news to all your people. Amen.

* HYMN #686

GOD OF OUR LIFE

“SANDON”

* 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

HEAVEN IS SINGING FOR JOY

“ALEGRIA”

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

Reflective Text:

Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia

For in your life and in mine is shining the glory God.

Alleluia!!

* 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.....David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Cindy Corley and Carolyn Matthews



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being 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.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

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 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 orange 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. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

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.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: call, text, or email: 814-715-1681 / revalisonpeters@gmail.com

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com**



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Eugene D. Munro and Bernice L. Munro, by their family.

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland, is called by the Session for **Sunday, June 9, 2024**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an elder to the class of 2026.



Our Summer Worship Schedule begins this morning!
 Worship will begin at 10:00 AM during the summer months.

SUMMER MUSIC: Our summer music program begins today and goes through Labor Day. If you would like to participate by playing an instrument or joining in song one Sunday this Summer, please speak to or contact a choir member or Judie Brown at browjuda49@gmail.com. Thank you!!



SET SAIL for Vacation Bible School which will be held June 3rd-6th and from 6:00-8:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Ages 5 through completion of 5th grade will participate alongside volunteers. Grandchildren and neighbor kids are welcome with 5-6 area churches sponsoring this fun, crafty, tasty and faith-building event. We are looking for volunteers as well as children to come! Registration forms will be available.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
 RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of May 26, 2024
Total 2024 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<u>2024 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$198,738.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 83,510.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 79,579.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 3,930.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, JUNE (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE (4)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE (5)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 10:30 AM STAFF MEETING
 5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, JUNE (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, JUNE (8)

SUNDAY, JUNE (9)

10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
 11:00 AM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL
 11:30 AM SESSION MEETING

JULIE COURTNEY-NOMINEE FOR SESSION CLASS OF 2026

In sharing some of the highlights of being a member of First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland for 45 years, Julie was reminded of how we are the body of Christ, and we all have different functions and purpose. She feels the call from God to become an Elder at this time after a journey of many opportunities to serve.

Julie attended West Bethesda Presbyterian Church from birth, and still feels part of that church family when visiting northwest Ohio. She was baptized as a confirmand in high school and was a Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly in Denver, Colorado in 1973.

After marrying Bob and settling into their Fayette Street home in 1978, they returned to Bob's home church family here, where they joined the sanctuary choir and volunteered as Youth Fellowship advisors. Julie joined First Pres in 1979 and participated in the PW Mary-Martha Circle.

Over the years Julie has taught both adult and youth Sunday School classes, gone on work camps with both youth and adults, worked with Youth Club, Face the Music camps, funeral receptions, and VBS. She has been the director of the JoyBell Handbell choir since 1982, and helped with area Handbell Festivals.

Julie is currently a member of the Faith Formation Team and the Worship and Music Committee. She served as head of the search committee for the Director of Christian Music, which brought Judie Brown back to the organ bench (God is Good!) And she has served on the Nominating Committee for several terms.

The Courtney's children stretch across the country with Jon and Meaghan Courtney near Seattle, WA, Josh and Ashley Courtney, and sons Rowan and Elias, in Norwalk, CT, and Melissa Courtney in Knoxville, TN. Julie also has a great love for her church family and appreciate the many ways that each of us minister to each other and our community. "Here I am, Lord... I will hold your people in my heart."

wednesday

JUNE 12

7:00p-9:00p

First Presbyterian Church

11 Washington Street, Cumberland MD 21502

NOT an OXYMORON

why LGBTQ AFFIRMING
CHRISTIANITY Makes Sense

PRESENTED BY

Colby Martin

AUTHOR OF

UNCLOBBER & THE SHIFT



For more information or to rsvp
email firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com
or call (301) 777-3700.



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